

NEWS LETTER



“Regional cooperation is vital to achieve SDGs” D-8 in ISDB Symposium

The D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Ku Jaafar delivered the keynote address at the Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Symposium organized by the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB). The event took place in Jeddah from 4-5 December 2019 and it was attended by high level officials from various regional organizations and development stake holders such as the Arab League, the African Union, IGAD, ESCWA, GCC, OIC, ECO, the African Development Fund and UNIDO. In his keynote address, Ambassador Ku Jaafar stressed the vital role of regional cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted the fact that no developing country, regardless of its strength, will be able to achieve the SDGs without cooperating with other partners, and that developing countries need to cooperate, share their resources and align their priorities. Hence, South-South cooperation, regional and triangular cooperation are the main pillars to achieve the SDGs. He stressed the vast responsibility of regional powers to listen to the needs and priorities of weaker countries in the region and to help to build their capacities. He pointed out the pivotal role of multilateral development banks such as the ISDB in meeting the challenge of resource mobilization needed to implement the SDGs

and to record meaningful progress in the limited time of the 10 years left. In this regard, the UNCTAD's 2014 World Investment report mentioned that achieving the SDGs will cost between 5 and 7 trillion US Dollars with an investment gap in developing countries of about USD 2.5 trillion, which highlights the huge responsibility on the shoulders of developing banks in providing financial resources as well as expertise in risk management, evaluation and monitoring. Ambassador Ku Jaafar reviewed the efforts made by the D-8 as a cross-regional organization to mainstream the UNSDGs throughout its activities and he referred to the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program in Abuja-Nigeria, the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8TTEN) which serve as a facilitator of technology transfer among the member states.



In the same context, the D-8 Director for Economy, Implementation and External Relations, Ms. Rasha Hamdy participated in the workshop on the ISDB regional action plans. In her intervention, she pointed out the need to focus on productive economy, along with promoting trade, when we draft action plans for development. She highlighted the importance of ensuring physical and digital regional connectivity to facilitate cooperation within the region and to focus on industrialization and in particular the knowledge based industrialization, since industrialization has always been the core for modernization and development, as well as the dire need to ensure technology transfer and the means to mitigate climate change.



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D-8 and IFAD to transform agriculture...

Mr. Bernard Hien, Country Director and Head of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) called on the D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari on 15th of January 2020. The visit came as a response to the D-8 secretariat's endeavors to establish institutional partnership with the relevant UN agencies. The meeting aims at exploring the areas of mutual interest for future cooperation and it was attended by Dr. Taylan Kıymaz, Country Programme Officer from IFAD and Ms. Rasha Hamdy, the Director of External Relations at the D-8 Secretariat.

The leaders of the two organizations discussed the opportunities for future cooperation in the agriculture sector that is very relevant to all the D-8 Member States and constitute an important factor for achieving economic development. They agreed on starting with implementing joint activities such as workshops on topics such as smart agriculture, adaptation to climate change and agriculture transformation that aims at making the sector of agriculture attractive to investors and businessmen. They both agreed on the importance of engaging the private sector and focusing on the empowerment of youth and women throughout their future joint activities, in order to contribute to the realization of the UN sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IFAD delegation expressed their interest in supporting the D-8 Project Support Fund initiative.



D-8 and UNCTAD to guide Investment

Following the "International Investment Agreements Reform for Sustainable Development" workshop; held in Istanbul from 12-13 September, 2019, the D-8 and UNCTAD agreed on "Guiding Principles for Investment Making"; which encompasses:

- The state's right to regulate investment policy within international standards, for the interest of the public good and to minimize potential negative effect.
- Balanced rights and obligations of the state and the investors in the interest of development for all.
- The importance of aligning investment promotion and facilitation policies with sustainable development goals. The investment policies should be grounded in a country's overall development strategy.
- The significance of cooperation among D-8 member states to address shared investment-for development policy challenges in light of their shared goals.
- There should be coherence in national and international investment policymaking.



D-8 in Illicit Trade Forum

At the invitation of UNCTAD, the D-8 Director of Economy and External Relations Ms. Rasha Hamdy participated in the UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum that took place in Geneva from 3-4 February 2020. The 2-days forum discussed the negative impact of illicit trade and illicit financial flows on achieving the UNSDGs. In her interventions, Ms. Hamdy touched upon the challenges facing the global action aimed at combating illicit trade. She highlighted the necessity of the harmonisation of policies and legislations when dealing with illicit trade, as well as addressing embargo as a motivating factor for illicit trade.



D-8 reach out to UN Technology Bank

Technology transfer and exchange of knowledge has always been at the core of the D-8 interests. Hence, the D-8 Secretariat approached the UN Technology Bank in Gebze, Turkey to explore areas of common interest for the two institutions as an initial step to embark on joint activities that aim at facilitating technology transfer.

On 28th January 2020, the D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Ku Jaafar and his team paid a courtesy visit to the managing Director of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, Mr. Joshua Setipa.

Ambassador Ku Jaafar reviewed the various initiatives and projects carried out by the D-8 Organisation specifically in the field of scientific research, agriculture and food security and health. He stressed the importance of technology transfer and exchange of knowledge among the D-8 countries. He pointed out that Bangladesh is the common member state for the two institutions, so they can cooperate in facilitating

the technology transfer from some D-8 countries such as Turkey and Malaysia to Bangladesh.

Mr. Setipa said that his institution represents a platform for knowledge exchange, and that they have a wide range of priorities that encompass most of the areas of development and they concentrate on gender equality, climate change mitigation and adaptation to ensure the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

He added that their work focuses on determining the policy and institutional gaps in the targeted country that hindered technology transfer and they work for the institutionalization of the scientific community in the targeted country and for establishing an ecosystem that facilitate innovation.

Mr. Setipa proposed the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the D-8 Organization that will set the framework of the cooperation between the two organizations.

D-8's challenges at spot light



The challenges facing the D-8 as an organization for facilitating South-South Cooperation, were examined under the spot light of MUSIAD.

In an attempt to support the D-8 Organization in its efforts at self-improvement, MUSIAD discussed in a workshop held in Sakarya from 22-23 November 2019, the challenges facing the D-8 and how the private sector can assist the D-8 Organization in dealing with such challenges.

Ambassadors from the D-8 Member States and other Muslim countries as well as the D-8 Director for Economy and External Relations participated in the session along with MUSIAD's President of International Relations and Foreign Trade Mr. Zaki Guvercin and a group of Turkish officials and businessmen.

Bangladesh to host 10th D-8 Summit in 2020

The D-8 Secretary General, Ambassador Ku Jaafar paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina on 31st October, 2019 at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka. Their discussions centered on the preparations for the forthcoming D-8 Summit that is to be held in Bangladesh in 2020.



Bangladesh is to take over from Turkey as the next chair of the D-8 Organization at the Summit. The event is planned to coincide with the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and it is a good opportunity for development experience sharing among the eight developing countries.

During the visit, Ambassador Ku Jaafar highly praised the Prime Minister for her nationalistic fervor, patriotic commitment and visionary leadership that enabled the country to record transcendent developmental strides and massive infrastructural upgrade during her time.

He described Bangladesh as a model of ideas-driven governance and effective development administration to be copied by other countries and expressed confidence in the ability of the Prime Minister and her team to make Bangladesh "the shining city on the hill".

The Secretary General also briefed the Prime Minister on the latest initiatives that are being pursued by the Secretariat, including the D-8 Payment Card, the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme, the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center and the proposal to establish special D-8 industrial zones in each Member State. In response, the Prime Minister said that her government is working on establishing 100 special economic zones, and that Bangladesh is ready to provide land and infrastructural facilities from among these zones for the D-8 Industrial Zones Initiative



D-8 share experience with SEACO

D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Ku Jaafar participated in the roundtable "Regional Cooperation Transforming Economies" jointly organized by The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) and South East Asian Cooperation (SEACO) in 29 October 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The roundtable meeting focused on the future direction of the halal industry as well as opportunities for infrastructure development. It also addressed the prospects and challenges of Islamic Finance.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina commended the D-8 Secretary General for his dynamic leadership, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts to make the organization effective and building partnership among the Member States and assured him of all kind of cooperation and urged the Secretary-General to continue his pursuit of development cooperation.

Ambassador Ku Jaafar also held meetings with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs who reiterated Bangladesh's commitment towards "a more effective and functional D-8".

Ambassador Ku Jaafar also visited an industrial park in Dhaka and he held discussions with Mr. Fazle Fahim, the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries FBCCI, They discussed the need to host a D-8 Business Forum on the sidelines of the Summit

Mr. Fahim expressed keen interest in implementing some of the new initiatives relating to fintech, market driven technology, skills development, and investments reforms among others.



The D-8 Summit is scheduled to take place in 2020 in Dhaka, and it will adopt the D-8 Decennial Roadmap, as well as some of the D-8 Secretariat's initiatives such as the D-8 Payment Card, the D-8 Industrial Zone/Park, the D-8 Clearing House, the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center and the D-8 Barter Trade. Bangladesh will also host the D-8 Youth Summit on the sidelines of the Summit.

Ambassador Ku Jaafar said that the Developing 8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) is a cross-regional organization and throughout its twenty two years of existence, the D-8 has accumulated experiences that encompass opportunities and challenges. He briefed the meeting on the challenges that the D-8 deals with and recommended possible solutions to these challenges. To accelerate Regional Cooperation, he emphasized on the active private sector collaboration and increase the engagement of international partners such as UN bodies and other international organizations..

D-8 to commence Health Protection Programme

The D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Ku Jaafar and his delegation visited the Honourable Vice President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo on 21st January, 2020 at the Presidential Villa, in Abuja.

During the visit, the Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the Nigerian Vice President for the constant support of the Federal Government of Nigeria to the D-8 Organization. He also expressed the gratitude of the D-8 Secretariat to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health of Nigeria for their support and assistance to the D-8 Health and Social Protection programme. Furthermore, he pointed out that the health sector is of crucial importance, and all Member States should focus on this field in order to tremendously improve health-care and human capacity development.

On his part, the Vice President thanked the Secretary-General and his team for their efforts at fostering cooperation among the D-8 Member States. He assured the Secretary General that Nigeria is committed to the D-8 Organization as it has tremendous potential for the country as well as for other member states .

The Secretary-General also called on the Honourable Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E Dr. Osagie E. Ehanire. During the call on, the Secretary-General stressed the importance of the activities in the health sector and their benefits to all the D-8 Member States. In his response, the Minister warmly welcomed the D-8 delegation to Nigeria. He also pointed out the crucial importance of health and social protection in the development process of any country, and he stressed the importance of human capital development for economic growth and development.

On the same day, the Secretary-General paid an official visit to the Honourable Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria, H.E Mariam Yalwaji Katagun at the latter's office. During the visit, the Secretary-General briefed the Minister on the activities of the D-8 Organization especially in the area of trade and industry. He referred to the visa agreement that is aimed at facilitating the movement of business people across D-8 frontiers, the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement and the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI). He also emphasized the key role of the private sector in fostering economic development and increasing intra D-8 trade volume. On her part, the Honorable Minister welcomed the D-8 delegation to Nigeria and congratulated the Secretary-General and D-8 Organization for introducing an important initiative by signing the Headquarters Agreement on health. She also expressed the importance of the health sector to economic development, and the importance of the private sector in reaching the trade targets as well as the women empowerment commitments.

D-8 discuss Tourism in Malaysia

The Second D-8 Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings were held from 18-20 November 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Ministers and Senior Officials from the D-8 Member States adopted the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism; and the Crescent Moon Initiative. In line with current global trends, the Member States expressed their intention to embrace the application of new technologies to further integrate tourism into the digital economy. The delegates also reiterated their commitment towards sustainable and inclusive tourism development with a view to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Ambassador Ku Jaafar met with the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Zubairu Dada in order to sign the Headquarters Agreement of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office in Nigeria. They discussed the means of boosting cooperation in the health sector. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the diplomatic missions of D-8 Member States in Abuja and officials from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria.

The event commenced with the opening remarks of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the D-8 Secretary-General. In his statement, the Minister highlighted the importance of forging cooperation in the health sector in order to scale up healthcare delivery, improve healthcare outcome and reduce poverty and inequality. He added that cooperation in the area of health will bring the desired growth that will facilitate structural transformation of the economies of Member States.

In his statement, the D-8 Secretary-General said that the signing of the Headquarters Agreement is historic as it marks a watershed in the history of D-8 Organization by broadening its operational mandate into health and social protection. He added that the launching of the D-8 Health and Social Protection (HSP) Programme is designed to accelerate progress, especially in the context of SDGs 1, 2 and 3 which are



critical indicators of living standards. During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary of Nigeria's Ministry of Health, H.E. Alhaji Abdulaziz Mashi Abdullahi also mentioned that there is no better way to fast track development than investing in the people. Hence, coupling health and poverty alleviation.

The D-8 Health and Social Protection (D-8 HSP) Programme was initiated at the 18th Council of Ministers meeting; held in Antalya in November 2018. The D-8 foreign ministers endorsed the establishment of the programme and entrusted Nigeria to host its office. The purpose of this initiative is to accelerate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, and 3 before 2030, such that poverty, hunger and disease will be addressed holistically, and overall the Gross Development Product (GDP) of the Member Countries will double from present levels of \$3.88trn.

D-8 to cooperate with ECOWAS

D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Ku Jaafar visited the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou on 21st January, 2020 at the Headquarters of the Organization in Abuja during his official trip to Nigeria.

At the meeting, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to the President of ECOWAS Commission for receiving the D-8 Delegation. Then, he briefly introduced the D-8 Organization and its programmes and activities and some of the initiatives recently introduced. He also shared some facts and figures regarding the D-8 Member States. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of experience sharing and global best practices between the two institutions.

On his part, the President of the Commission pointed out that ECOWAS undertake activities in a wide spectrum of areas and it cooperate with other institutions and organizations. He added that although the two institutions have differences in their areas of operations and the experiences they have garnered over the years, yet they have various fields where they can cooperate and learn from each other. The two executives agreed on commencing collaboration between their organizations by signing a general MoU.



D-8 Secretary General deliver lecture on SDGs

The D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Ku Jaafar delivered a lecture in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and Governance Workshop; jointly organized by Sehir University and Durham University, in Istanbul, Turkey. In his statement, the Secretary-General briefed the participants regarding the activities of the D-8 Secretariat and the D-8 Member States in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

D-8 and Anatolian Youth Association sign protocol...

The D-8 Secretariat and the Anatolian Youth Association of the Republic of Turkey have signed a protocol on 13th December, 2019, at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul, Turkey. The protocol is a framework for collaboration between the two institutions regarding youth and relevant activities.

With the signing of the protocol, the parties agreed to promote cooperation and understanding areas such as organizing joint training programs for young people on the objectives and activities of the D-8 Organization. Both sides agreed to work on mutual knowledge sharing for educational and research purposes and organizing advanced training programs on D-8 and its priority areas.



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