



# D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DEVELOPING-EIGHT ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



## THIS ISSUE'S NEWS AND UPDATES:

**D-8 SME FORUM AND HEALTH MARKET IN ABUJA NIGERIA**

**AMBASSADOR IMAM VISITED THE VP OF NIGERIA**

**D8 - UNDESA WORKSHOP ON E-GOVERNMENT IN ISTANBUL**

**MUSIAD'S BUSINESS DIPLOMACY SUMMIT WITH D-8 COUNTRIES HELD IN ISTANBUL**

## DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON CIVIL AVIATION MET FROM 21-22 OCTOBER 2022, IN BALI, INDONESIA

The Republic of Indonesia hosted the 12th meeting of the Director General and Expert Working Group on Civil Aviation from October 20-21, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia.

The Meeting was attended by officials and experts from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye.

# D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ACTIVITIES 2022 IN RETROSPECT





## HEADLINES

- **ACTIVITIES ON SECTORAL COOPERATION**
- **COURTESY VISITS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
- **MEETINGS, WEBINARS, EVENTS AND CONFERENCES**
- **ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES**



## MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### **Distinguished Readers,**

This year 2022, now almost over, has been quite eventful for us at D-8. This is more particularly so because of our leadership change. Please recall that I took over the mantle of leadership in January as the Secretary General of our prestigious organization.

From the first day I was determined on my twin-vision of increasing intra-trade relations amongst member countries, as well as increasing visibility for the organization, globally.

Being well-focused, we have embarked on a series of guided activities and new initiatives to reposition D-8 as a more vibrant, result-oriented entity with the capacity to fulfill the aspirations of the founding Fathers. One of the new initiatives is the intensified attention to the information in line with the constant reminder playing out daily in this information age through multiplying windows on the Internet. To help the organization focus properly, therefore, we have decided to re-introduce the dedicated quarterly newsletter to inform, educate and enlighten citizens of our Member States as well as all our valued partners. This is to enable all stakeholders to keep abreast of what we are doing and capable of achieving as an organization.

D-8, as an organization, was founded exactly 25 years ago with the Istanbul Declaration. We have, within a quarter of a century, notably recorded significant achievements. The total GDP of D-8 Countries has more than quadrupled from USD 1.2 trillion at its inception in 1997 to almost USD 5.0 trillion by 2021, which is 5.3% of the world's GDP. Our intra-trade transactions also rose significantly from USD 14 billion in 1997 to USD 129 billion in 2021. In the course of our silver jubilee anniversary celebration this year, we organized, for the first time, D-8 Investment Forum in June 2022 in Istanbul. This was attended by all our member states. The reason behind the forum was to further expose the potential investments that abound in all our Member States to would-be investors within the D-8 Group and beyond.

I have also taken quality time this year to visit many of our member states, and the purpose was to engage with our leaders and seek their wise counsel on how to move the organization forward. Among the countries visited, apart from the Republic of Turkiye, where our Secretariat is located, were the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Indonesia, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In all, I received a warm embrace, and I could see that our leaders were enthusiastic and more than ready to give the needed support to our organization.

It is also worthy of mention that this year we have deepened our engagement and collaboration with development partners both within the UN system and with other multilateral institutions that are relevant to the work we are doing. I have equally undertaken a series of visits to meet with some other partners to assure them we are fully ready to step up our collaboration. My visit to both World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), based in Geneva, Switzerland, was geared towards strengthening the existing collaboration. We want to consciously nurture all windows of mutual benefits optimally.

**Dear Readers,**

In this Fourth issue of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) Quarterly Newsletter from October 2022 to December 2022, you will have the pleasure of reading about some of our activities and events for the period under review. Some of the activities include the unprecedented First D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and Health Market jointly organized by one of our affiliate bodies, the D-8 Health and Social Protection Office, based in Abuja, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). The events attracted an array of dignitaries from government officials, high-ranking diplomats from member countries and the UN bodies, and members of the organized private sectors as well as Partners such as ISDB.

Under sectoral cooperation, you will be treated to the outcome of the 12th meeting of the D8 Directors General and Experts Working Group on Civil Aviation hosted by the Republic of Indonesia on the Island of Bali. Still about Indonesia, the Secretary-General was there twice within a short period of time, where he also participated in the Third World Conference on Creative Economy at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. Several exploratory meetings also took place on the sidelines of the visit to Indonesia, where bilateral consultations were held with the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, Hon. Sandiaga Uno and the D-8 Commissioner for Indonesia, H.E. Amb. Tri Tharyat, and many more.

This edition also captures the Secretary General's visit to several institutions and bodies in the Republic of Turkiye. Most notable, perhaps, was the visit to the headquarters of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), where collaboration in the area of sports, particularly football, was discussed.

Other activities you will find interesting are the Secretary General's meeting with the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Professor Yemi Osinbajo; the visit to Ankara Chambers of Commerce as well as the visit to Ankara Office of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

We do hope you will find the last edition of this Newsletter for this year exciting and enjoyable.

As the curtain on this year of 2022 draws to a close, we wish our distinguished readers a Happy and Prosperous New year, 2023, in advance.

Sincerely,

**Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam**

## SECTORAL COOPERATION

### DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND EXPERTS WORKING GROUP ON CIVIL AVIATION MET FROM 21-22 OCTOBER 2022, BALI, INDONESIA



The Republic of Indonesia hosted the 12th meeting of the Director General and Experts Working Group on Civil Aviation from October 20-21, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia.

The meeting was attended by officials and experts from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye.

The meeting was opened by Ibu Maria Kristi Endah, Senior Advisor to the Minister for Safety and Connectivity, Ministry of Transportation who delivered her remarks, followed by Bapak Dubes Tri

Tharyat, Director General of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of D-8.

This Experts on Civil Aviation meeting convened following the COVID-19 to share their countries' experiences, policies, and legislation in place to deal with the Pandemic. The experts comprehensively discussed the ways and means of further enhancing aviation cooperation, which has a direct impact on the growth of trade and economy among Member States.

The experts updated the meeting on the work of the task forces and their interactions to further advance the agenda of cooperation in the Aviation Sector. Furthermore, the Member states also proposed scheduling task force meetings on regular intervals, such as on a quarterly or biannual basis, to streamline the task forces' work and collaboration.

Private Sector from the Aviation Industry of Member States also made their presentations at the meeting. Among of others;

Iter Aero Industri of Indonesia gave a presentation on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, while PT Dirgantara Indonesia presented a prospective D-8 connection. They also proposed the formation of a partnership between PT Dirgantara Indonesia and the D-8 countries. PT Dirgantara Indonesia also urged that the D-8 Member States develop a collaborative aircraft certification program and show a willingness to share their expertise, knowledge, and information on its operations with the D-8 Countries.

CEO of PT GMF Aero Asia (Garuda Indonesia Group) made a presentation on Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) industry cooperation.

The Chair concluded the meeting by expressing her heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all delegations for their participation and productive discussions.

## SECRETARY GENERAL OF D-8 SEEKS COLLABORATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES TO BUILD RESILIENT AND VIRILE SMES

The Secretary General of Developing Eight Organization for Economic cooperation (D-8), H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam urged member states of the organization to collaborate more effectively to build resilient and virile Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) as a way of further boosting intra-trade relations to achieve the D-8 agenda of 2030 Decennial roadmap.

Ambassador Imam stated this at the D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and Health Market jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency

(SMEDAN) of Nigeria and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program Office. The event, held from 26-27 October 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria, with the theme: "A Coalition to Re-invent SMEs Competitiveness in the D-8 Region: Addressing the Challenges Faced by SMEs with Special Focus on Health Market".

Speaking further, the Secretary-General acknowledged the importance of SMEs to the overall economic growth of D-8 Member Countries, describing it as not only the backbone of their various economies but the main driving force. He, however, harped on the need for SMEs to be strengthened and equipped with greater capacity to grow the economy rapidly. According to him, "SMEs must also be resilient to climate change. Therefore, we must equip them with the capacity to catalyze and scale up climate action". He added that by 2030, 70 percent of jobs would be generated by SMEs, while about 600 million jobs would be needed globally.

On what his organization has done to enhance the capacity of SMEs and the Health Market, Ambassador Imam said the setting up of the D-8 SMEs Task Force in 2010 and the subsequent establishment of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program Office in Abuja, with the support of the Nigerian Government, were some of the measures taken, so far. He said further that the organization was considering other initiatives such as establishing the D-8 Center for SMEs Support and Development, Venture Capital and Credit Guarantee Funds, a separate Micro Financing System, and a D-8 SMEs development bank to provide customized financial support to enhance the growth of SMEs.

Ambassador Imam reiterated his twin-vision of increasing intra-trade relations amongst D-8 Member Countries as well as increasing the visibility of the Organization globally, adding that with the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), the Organization's ambitious plan to increase the intra-trade to US\$ 500 billion by 2030 will soon become a reality. D-8 Secretary-General praised the Government of Nigeria for proposing to host the D-8 SMEs Center and described the gesture as a further testimony of Nigeria's commitment to the Organization.

Earlier, in his opening statement, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Ambassador Zubairu Dada, underlined the importance of deepening collaboration among member states for the growth of SMEs. He added that easing access to technology and developing clusters to build the capacity of the SMEs would also be helpful to their growth, while he admonished the Government of the D-8 Member States to facilitate inclusive investment to enable them to implement an impactful program for the SMEs.





“The ability of SMEs must be enhanced to address myriad of challenges, both common and specific challenges, that are unique to the geography of a particular Member State”, said the Minister. Ambassador Dada lauded the D-8 Secretary-General for his numerous initiatives since his assumption of duty early this year, particularly for elevating the visibility of the D-8 Organization not only in member states but globally through engagement with relevant Development Partners.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs informed the gathering that the proposal to host the SMEs Center in Abuja was tabled during the last 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers meetings held in July 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the proposal was warmly welcomed by all Member States. He, however, hoped that establishing the D-8 SME Centre would provide the much-needed platform for member countries to synergize their policies to strengthen the SMEs sector.

On his part, the Director General of SMEDAN, Mr. Olawale Fasanya, in his address, said that the establishment of the D-8 SMEs Center in Nigeria would promote, encourage, advance, and support its activities, adding that the proposed center for SMEs would unleash substantial development impacts and synergies between and among D-8 member countries and relevant agencies and authorities.

During the panel discussions, in which various issues relevant to the growth of SMEs were debated, Ambassador Imam presented his views on how the potential of the SME sector could be maximized in D-8 member states for the overall benefits of the sector. He added that the presence of representatives of Development Partners such as the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) at the Forum meant that the event has resonated beyond member countries of the organization. He also noted that the joint study conducted by the D-8 HSP and IsDB on therapeutic goods was further proof of the excellent cooperation between his organization and its partners.

Finally, the Secretary-General said plans are afoot to make the D-8 SMEs Forum and Health Market an annual event to be rotated amongst member countries.

The 2-day event was attended by more than 150 participants from D-8 member countries, including government officials and members of the Organized Private Sector.



## COURTESY VISITS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### AMBASSADOR IMAM HELD A BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

The Secretary General of Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno, on 6 October 2022, on the sidelines of the 3rd World Conference on Creative Economy (WCCE) in Bali, Indonesia.

During the meeting, Ambassador Imam highlighted the need for member states to focus more on the tourism industry's development to maximize its potential for stronger cooperation. He also underlined the significant contributions of the private sector and, most importantly, the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs), in tourism and creative economy, to the GDP of the D-8 Member States.



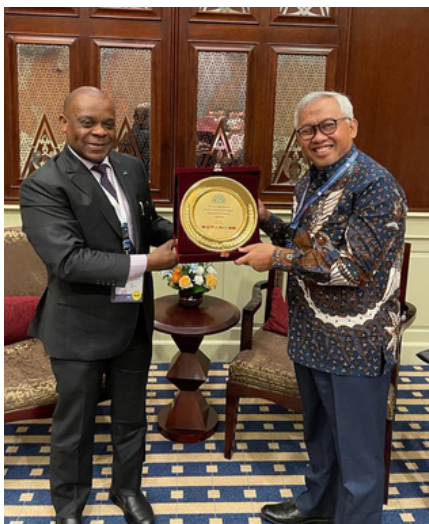
The Secretary-General further informed Minister Sandiaga Uno that the D-8 Organization will organize a Ministerial Meeting on Tourism to be hosted by Pakistan in the near future. All Ministers responsible for tourism from the D-8 Member States are expected to attend. Speaking further, Ambassador Imam proposed to Minister Sandiaga Uno for Indonesia to host a "D-8 Tourism Forum" as part of the Organization's effort to strengthen the tourism sector and to consider the tremendous feat achieved by the Indonesian Government in the tourism industry. He added that the proposed Tourism Forum, which will be largely private-sector-driven, will provide valuable input for the proposed D-8 Ministerial Tourism Meeting.

**D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE D-8 COMMISSIONER OF INDONESIA**



D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, who was in Bali, Indonesia, for the 3rd World Conference on Creative Economy, met with the D-8 Commissioner of the Republic of Indonesia, Ambassador Tri Tharyat, on 7 October 2022.

**AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF IORA**



His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of D-8, held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Salman Al Farisi, the Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), on the margin of the 3rd World Conference on Creative Economy, held in Bali, on 6 October 2022. The two interlocutors had fruitful discussions on how to start cooperation between the two institutions.

**D-8 DELEGATION VISITED THE ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The D-8 SG Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam paid a courtesy call on the Vice-President of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Dr. İsrail Kuralay. The meeting discussed trade and investment opportunities for business people in D-8 countries.



## SECRETARY-GENERAL PAID VISIT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA



The Federal Government of Nigeria has pledged its continued support to the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) to bolster its cooperation in trade, energy, industry and SMEs, and health. This pledge was made when the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Professor Yemi Osinbajo, received in audience the Secretary-General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, who paid him a courtesy call at the State House, Aso Rock Villa in Abuja, Nigeria, on 1 November 2022.

During the visit, Ambassador Imam apprised the Vice President on the D-8 Organization's plan to implement the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) before the end of this year. He said that almost all member states had completed their respective domestic procedures to implement the PTA. He went further to inform H.E. Vice President Osinbajo that the relevant protocols to the D-8 PTA, namely, the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and the Trade Facilitation Strategy, have been concluded.

Ambassador Imam also briefed the Vice President on his twin vision of increasing intra-trade relations among member states and increasing the organization's visibility within member states and across the globe. Ambassador Imam informed Professor Osinbajo that the D-8 Secretariat was considering organizing a private-sector-promoted D-8 Energy Forum in Lagos, Nigeria, sometime next year. The Energy Forum, if it eventually materializes, with the support of member states, would bring together the big players in the Energy sector of the D-8 member countries to brainstorm in finding enduring solutions to the ongoing crisis bedeviling the sector in member countries.

On his part, the Vice President underlined the importance of closer ties among developing countries such as those in the D-8. He emphasized that it is high time for D-8 Member Countries to focus on critical issues, particularly trade and energy. H.E. Vice President stressed the need for greater trade engagement among the D-8 Member States. At the same time, he advised the Member States to provide trade facilitation and eliminate the burden and challenges faced by businesses. He added that Nigeria offers an excellent prospect for expanding trade among the D-8 Countries.

The Vice President urged the D-8 Organization to move forward with implementing the D-8 Payment System initiative and suggested that the payment system will contribute to increasing trade relations among member countries. He added, "This is one of the areas you may be looking at, especially engaging Nigerian banks to see how they can function within the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA) and all our partners and member countries of the D-8."

In conclusion, the Vice President said he hoped the proposed D-8 SMEs Center in Nigeria would start to function soon as it would be of great benefit in offering the much-needed skill acquisitions to the teeming population of unemployed youths in member states. In his response, Secretary-General Imam assured the Vice President on the takeoff of the Center in Nigeria, describing it as a game changer in SME cooperation among the D-8 Member States. "It will facilitate capacity building, advocate quality assurance of products, and promote market expansion of SMEs," he added.

## AMBASSADOR IMAM VISITED THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NIGERIA



The D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Imam paid a courtesy call to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Ambassador Zubairu Dada at the Foreign Ministry in Abuja, on 28 October 2022.

## D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO SMEDAN

The D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Isiaka Imam held a meeting with the Director-General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Mr. Olawale Tunde Fasanya in Abuja, on 28 October 2022.



## AMBASSADOR IMAM'S VISIT TO THE NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA



The D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam had a meeting with the Director-General of the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria, Mr. Ahmed Bolaji Nagode, in Abuja, 28 October 2022.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF TÜRKIYE



The D-8 Secretary-General met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 11 November 2022. The two interlocutors discussed ways to strengthen the cooperation of the Organization and agreed that tangible deliverables in priority areas of the Organization must be achieved to increase the Organization's global visibility.

The two Officials further agreed that all Member States must play a more active role in supporting the activities of the D-8 Organization to enable it to achieve its intended purpose. The D-8 Secretary-General appreciated the support of Türkiye in hosting the Organization since its inauguration.

## AMBASSADOR IMAM'S VISIT TO NBET IN NIGERIA

The D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam, met with the Managing Director of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET), Dr. Nnaemeka Ewelukwa, in Abuja, Nigeria, on 2 November 2022. They underlined cooperation in the energy sector as one of the priorities for the D-8. The D-8 Secretary-General and the NBET Managing Director agreed in principle to organize a private-sector-promoted D-8 Forum on Energy in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2023.



## D-8 DELEGATION PAID A VISIT TO TURKISH FOOTBALL FEDERATION



As part of ongoing efforts to increase the visibility of the Organization, the D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam paid a courtesy call on the President of the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), Mr. Mehmet Büyükekşi at the TFF Istanbul office on 14 November 2022. Ambassador Imam briefed the President about the D-8 and shared his ideas and vision for developing the D-8 Countries Football League concept to enhance people-to-people contact in the D-8 Countries.

During the meeting, the President of TFF informed the Secretary-General that the Republic of Türkiye will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Republic in 2023, and the D-8 Football league could be incorporated into the celebration of the anniversary.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE DIGITAL OFFICE OF TURKIYE



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, paid a courtesy call on Mr. Ali Taha Koç, the President of the Digital Transformation Office (DTO) of Türkiye in Ankara, on 23 November 2022. The D-8 SG experienced first-hand Turkish advancement in digital transformation & e-government during the visit.

Ambassador Imam and Mr. Ali Taha Koç discussed future cooperation within the D-8 framework to enhance the digitalization of services and the possibility of establishing a D-8 e-commerce platform. He also invited the Digital Transformation Office of Türkiye to share its experiences and best practices on digital transformation with the D-8 by collaborating with the D-8 Secretariat to organize a webinar or workshop on Digital Governance in 2023.

## D-8 DELEGATION PAID A VISIT TO THE ANKARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ambassador Isiaka Imam, Secretary-General of D-8 Organization, met with Mr. Gürsel Baran, the President of Ankara Chamber of Commerce (ATO), and Dr. Ömer Çağlar Yılmaz, Member of the Board of ATO in Ankara on 22 November 2022. They discussed increasing intra-trade among the D-8 Members through engagement with private sectors and business entities in the D-8 Countries.



The two leaders discussed utilizing the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) to boost trade.

## VISIT TO GIZ GMBH IN ANKARA

Ambassador Isiaka Imam, Secretary-General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation met with Ms Rubeena Esmail, the Director of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ GmbH) in Ankara, Türkiye on 23 November 2022.

The two dignitaries discussed the potential for cooperation between the two Organizations in the areas of human development and capacity building in energy, health & social protection. The D-8 SG sought a possibility for GIZ global to contribute to the D-8 projects & programs.



## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO JICA



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam met with Ms. Yuko Tanaka, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in Ankara, Türkiye, on 23 November 2022. The D-8 Secretary-General introduced the D-8 Organization and sought possible cooperation with JICA to implement some of the programs and projects of the D-8.

## D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED TUBITAK UZAY

Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam, the Secretary-General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation visited the Center of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) Uzay in Ankara, Türkiye on 22 November 2022 and toured the facility while guided by Mr. Sadik Murat Yüksel. The Secretary-General was briefed on the current space program conducted by TUBİTAK. The visit was undertaken during the visit to Ankara for the D-8 Technology Transfer Award hosted by TÜBİTAK at the Middle East Technical University Hall.



## FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED D-8 SECRETARIAT



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 SG, received an audience from Hon. Mr. Dipo Alam, the D-8 Secretary-General 2007-2010, at the D-8 Secretariat, Istanbul, on 9 December 2022. They exchanged views on development within the Organization. In addition, Mr. Dipo Alam offered some ideas for cooperation between the D-8 with other entities.

## AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE RECTOR OF GEBZE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam met with Prof. Dr. Hacı Ali MANTAR, Rector of Gebze Technical University (GTU), at the Secretariat in Istanbul on 14 December 2022. The two dignitaries underscored the important role of human resource development and agreed in principle to explore cooperation in various areas, including technology transfer and biotech, to support agriculture and inter-universities collaboration. The Rector invited the Secretary-General to deliver a lecture to GTU students in early 2023. They also agreed to organize a webinar on strengthening synergy between research and industries. GTU, which is one of the leading research universities in Türkiye, is a member of the D-8 NPRI.



## MEETINGS, WEBINARS, EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

### SECRETARY-GENERAL SPOKE AT BALI'S CREATIVE ECONOMY CONFERENCE



On 6 October, D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, attended the meeting of the High-Level Panel at the 3rd World Conference on Creative Economy, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 5-7 October 2022, on the invitation from the Government of Indonesia.

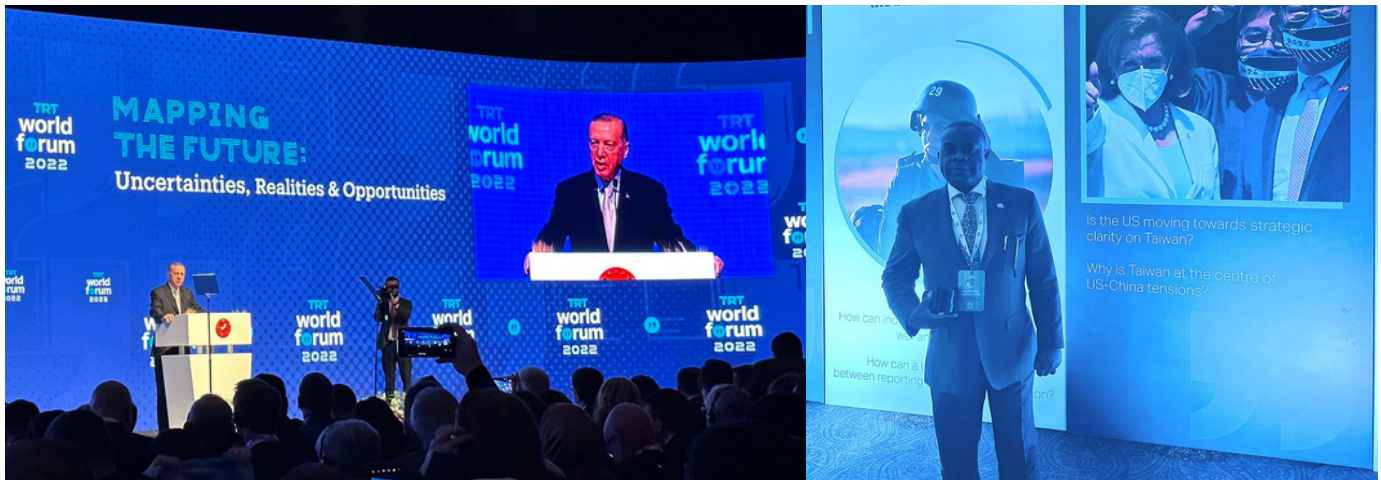
In the panel, the status of the creative economy in the Developing Eight Countries and strengths, challenges, and opportunities in those respective countries in creative economy and tourism.

### D-8 SG ATTENDED THE RECEPTION AT THE EMBASSY OF NIGERIA IN ANKARA



On 1 October 2022, the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, attended the reception organized by the Embassy of Nigeria in Türkiye on the occasion of the 62nd Independence Anniversary of Nigeria.

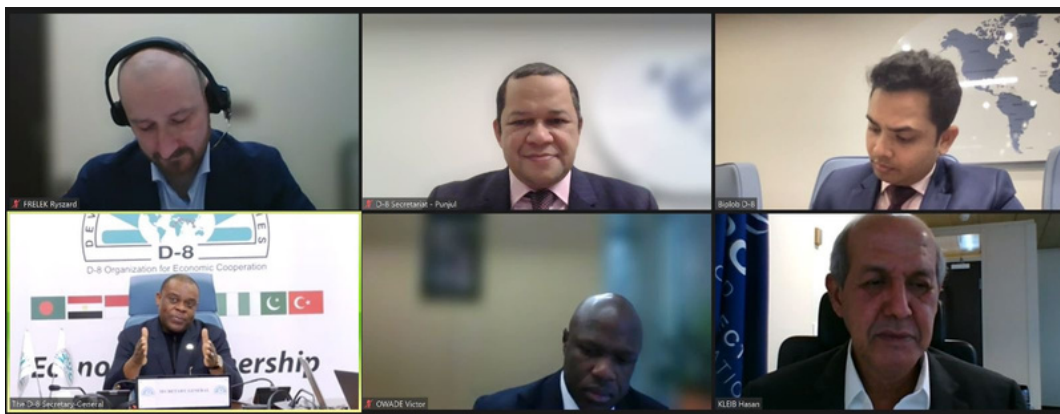
## AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED TRT WORLD FORUM



The D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam, participated in the TRT World Forum, which took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 9-10 December 2022. The forum theme was “Mapping the Future: Uncertainties, Realities, and Opportunities”.

The forum was attended by the President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and government officials, as well as high-level representatives from various institutions and organizations as well as representatives of the media agencies and students.

## D-8 SG MET WITH THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WIPO



Ambassador Isiaka Imam had a virtual meeting with Ambassador Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for Regional & National Development, on 13 December 2022. The meeting discussed the preparation for joint activities between D-8 and WIPO to support SMEs, youth, and women empowerment. The activities are scheduled to kick off in 2023.

## MUSIAD'S BUSINESS DIPLOMACY SUMMIT WITH D-8 COUNTRIES HELD IN ISTANBUL



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) jointly organized the Business Diplomacy Summit with the D-8 Countries on the margins of the MUSIAD Expo on 5 November 2022. The Summit addressed ways to boost trade among D-8 Countries.

The Turkish D-8 Commissioner, Nigerian Ambassador to Türkiye, CDAI of Bangladesh, and Chairman of DEIK Indonesia Business Council, as resource persons, discussed ways & measures to boost trade among the D-8 Member States.



During the Summit, the D-8 Secretary-General and the President of MUSIAD signed an MoU on cooperation between the D-8 and MUSIAD to advance trade and business through facilitating direct contact among business people from the D-8 Member States.

## D-8 AND UNDESA COLLABORATED TO STRENGTHEN E-GOVERNMENT IN D-8 MEMBER COUNTRIES TOWARD ACHIEVING 2030 SDGS



The D-8 Organization agreed to harness resources to advance the Members States' respective e-government services to implement the sustainable development goals. This was the key outcome of the two-day Workshop, jointly organized by the D-8 Organization and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in Istanbul from 17 to 18 November 2022.

The Workshop, titled: 'Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementing New Approaches for E-government for SDG Implementation', was attended by participants from the D-8 Member States. In addition, experts from the Turkish Digital Transformation Office, UNESCO, the UN Technology Bank for Developing Countries, and the UN Regional Coordinator in Ankara enriched the Workshop.

In his opening remarks at the Workshop, the Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, underlined the importance of e-government for effectively implementing policies that would support member states in their efforts towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He added that the attainment of SDGs is one of the objectives of his organization, just as it is captured in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030 Document.

Speaking further, Ambassador Imam said that collaboration between the D-8 Organization and UN DESA could serve as a model for enhancing cooperation between similar organizations with different resources and potentials, adding that he hoped the ongoing cooperation with the UN Agency would be expanded to other areas, such as e-commerce and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs).

On his part, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Türkiye, Mr. Alvaro Rodrigues, lauded the cooperation between D-8 Organization and the UN system in organizing the Workshop, adding that this cooperation was imperative for meeting the target of SDGs, and in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

Among the several recommendations from the workshop was creating a roadmap and a long-term action plan for the D-8 Member Countries to strengthen their e-government, including a proposal for the establishment of a D-8 e-government network, which would meet regularly to identify challenges and proffer solutions to problems associated with e-government in the member countries.



## D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED AT THE 38TH COMCEC MEETING IN ISTANBUL



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, attended the Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting of the 38th Session of COMCEC in İstanbul, Türkiye, on 28 November 2022. The President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, officially opened the Meeting and chaired the high-level session.

The D-8 SG subscribed to the statement made by President Erdoğan, among others, to advance our trade and economic cooperation to contribute to our efforts aimed at turning the current global challenges into an opportunity.

## AMBASSADOR ISIKA IMAM MET WITH THE DG OF IOFS



D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam met with the Director General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), H.E. Yerlan Bidaulet, on the sideline of the 38th Session of COMCEC Meeting in İstanbul, on 28 November 2022.

The two dignitaries discussed potential cooperation between the D-8 and IOFS on food security and the possibility of signing an MoU with an action plan.

## ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES

### D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AWARD CEREMONY



D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, attended the ceremony for the 3rd D-8 Technology Transfer Award (TTA 2022) organized by D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) in collaboration with The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK) at the Middle East Technical University Hall in Ankara, Türkiye, on 22 November 2022. The Award was jointly presented to Iran and Malaysia for transfer in nano-technology.



The Technology Transfer Award is an initiative of the D-8 Organization to promote collaboration in technological advancement, which includes private sector. The award is given every year to one 'donor' and one 'recipient' of tech transfer from Member Countries and development partners.

# D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ACTIVITIES 2022 IN RETROSPECT





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