



D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DEVELOPING-EIGHT ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



THIS ISSUE'S NEWS AND UPDATES:

THE 45TH SESSION OF THE D-8
COMMISSION AND 20TH SESSION OF D-8
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

D-8 BUSINESS FORUM AND EXPO IN DHAKA

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN
THE 77TH UNGA

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO
KOSGEB OF TURKIYE

THE 20TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, DHAKA, BANGLADESH, 27 JULY 2022

The Secretary General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, presented progress report of his six-month stewardship before the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 25-27 July 2022.



HEADLINES

- **THE 45TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION AND THE 20TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**
- **THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BILATERAL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK**
- **COURTESY VISITS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS MEETINGS, WEBINARS AND EVENTS**
- **DEVELOPMENTS AT D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES**



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Distinguished Readers,

I have the pleasure of presenting to our readers the Third Issue of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) Quarterly Newsletter from July 2022 to September 2022. This issue covers the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers of D-8, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in July 2022, and the Secretary-General's working visit to New York, the United States, for the 77th Session of UNGA, and other significant progress of the Organization.

The D-8 aims to increase economic cooperation among its Member States to boost economic growth, sustain development and promote the well-being of its people. In doing so, we have focused our attention on the six key priority areas: Agriculture, Trade, Transportation, Industry, Energy, and Tourism and activities of D-8 affiliate bodies.

As we approach the end of 2022, the D-8 Organization is fast moving towards the second phase of its lifecycle. We strongly believe that we represent a robust economic powerhouse with a great history and a bright future. Equally, we are also determined to focus more on implementing the shared vision set forward by our leaders to achieve the goals of the D-8 for the benefit of our people.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

THE 45TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION AND 20TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



The Secretary General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, presented the progress report of the D-8 Organization during his six months of stewardship before the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and, subsequently, the 20th Session of the Council of Ministers, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 25-27 July 2022.

Ambassador Imam briefed the Commissioners, Ministers, and high-level representatives of the D-8 Member States during the three-day Meeting hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. There, he laid out activities and programs undertaken since he took office as the Chief Scribe of the Organization.

Ambassador Imam also reiterated his commitment to his vision of increasing intra-trade relations amongst the D-8 Member States and increasing the Organization's visibility within and outside of the Member States through project implementation and partnership with other international and regional organizations and relevant external entities.

The D-8 Secretary-General also briefed the august gathering on the significant progress achieved in the area of trade cooperation among Member States with the conclusion of all issues around the Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) and the near-conclusion of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).



He added that with this positive development, the operationalization of the PTA can take off later this year as agreed to by the Member States. He expressed his confidence that the PTA would facilitate the increase of intra-trade relations among the Member States.

In her inaugural address to the Council of Ministers, which was delivered through virtual platform, the Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and the current Chair of the D-8 Organization, Honourable Sheikh Hasina, stressed the need for implementing the PTA within the grouping to make it a strong economic bloc. She urged member countries to work together to provide the impetus for harnessing the potential towards a prosperous future. The Honourable Prime Minister Hasina expressed her satisfaction with the finalization of the D-8 PTA, which she said would help harmonize the intra-trade relations, remove the barriers in order to stimulate business and economic cooperation among the Member States.



In similar vein, at the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) Business and Expo Forum organized on the sidelines of the Council of Ministers' Meeting, from 26-27 July 2022, Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, who is President of D-8 CCI, stated that the Expo would pave way for businesses amongst Member States.

In his address to the Council of Ministers, Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, who chaired the Council meeting, lauded the Secretary-General and his team at the Secretariat for their proactive measures and novel initiatives to help member countries advance the goals of the Organization.

He said that the volume of intra-trade among Member States at the Organization's inception 25 years ago was 13 billion dollars, which has now reached 129 billion dollars. He expressed hope that intra-trade will increase by ten times or at least to 1.3 trillion dollars within the next ten years. Minister Abdul Momen also underscored the importance of the youths' contribution to the overall development agenda of the D-8 Organization. He called on member countries to tap into the ideas and fearless energy of the youth to bring much-needed change, which could be utilized by providing them with education and job opportunities.

On the role of women, Minister Momen described women's power as a significant force in every country, adding that the time has come to recognize their potential and involve them in economic development. To achieve this, he said, priority must be given to female education, skills training, and provide a conducive environment for women to contribute to economic development.

Aside from the issue of trade, the Meetings also deliberated on administrative and financial matters, enlargement of the Organization, as well as the current and future activities of the five D-8 affiliate bodies, namely, the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program, D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network, D-8 International University, D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation and D-8 Agricultural Research Centre. The Ministers and representatives of the Member States reiterated the commitments of their respective countries to provide continuous support to the D-8 Organization.



77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA77) AND BILATERAL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK



The Secretary-General of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8 SG), H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, paid a working visit to New York, the United States of America, from 19-23 September 2022. The D-8 SG led the Delegation of the D-8 Secretariat attending the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77) as an Observer under the UNGA Resolution 69/129 of 2014, which grants Observer status to the D-8.

The visit was also aimed at engaging in a series of bilateral meetings with counterparts from United Nations bodies and other international organizations. Within the framework of the UNGA77, the D-8 SG also participated in the Transforming Education Summit, held under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General on 19 September 2022.

The D-8 Delegation kicked off the participation by attending the Transforming Education Summit organized by the UN Secretary-General. The D-8 Delegation noted that over 130 countries voiced the call to reform education systems and accelerate action to end the learning crisis, offering new hope to global children for a better future. The D-8 Delegation also noted countries' commitments to addressing learning loss, supporting psycho-social well-being, ensuring education for economically vulnerable communities, and the importance of gender-sensitive education policies.

The D-8 Secretary-General attended the opening of the General Debate of the UNGA77 by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG), H.E. Antonio Guterres, on 20 September 2022. He noted the UNSG's strengthened call to overcome divisions to find common solutions to save the world from peril. The UNSG highlighted the multitude of challenges faced by the global community, which include climate emergencies, armed conflicts, health pandemics, and food insecurity.

The D-8 Delegation noted the statements made by the Heads of State, and Government and other high-level representatives of the UN Member States during the General Debate of the UNGA77. It particularly paid special attention, noted, and subscribed to the statements made by the D-8 Member States.

The D-8 SG also convened nine bilateral meetings during his working visit to New York from 19-23 September 2022.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO IFAD



The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with the Associate Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Ms. Satu Santala, at IFAD's Liaison Office in New York on 19 September 2022. They discussed potential cooperation between the two Organizations, whereby the D-8 sought for capacity-building assistance from IFAD on smart agriculture, food security, market access, and research on agriculture, including through the triangular cooperation mechanism.

IFAD expressed its willingness to explore joint programs suited for D-8 and suggested the D-8 Secretariat to engage with the IFAD regional office in Istanbul to elaborate on further modalities for cooperation.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S COURTESY VISIT TO DG OF WTO

The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with the Director-General of the WTO, H.E. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, at the Lexington Hotel in New York on 20 September 2022. The two leaders discussed the trend of global trade. The WTO DG noted that, individually, most D-8 Member States fared relatively well in international trade.

D-8 SG solicited WTO's assistance on capacity-building programs, particularly operationalizing certificate of origin and trade facilitation strategy, to which the WTO DG responded positively.



SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE TRUST FUND DIRECTOR OF THE UNOSSC



The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with the Trust Fund Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, at the Office of the UNOSSC on 20 September 2022. They discussed the potential to establish triangular cooperation between D-8 Organization and UNOSSC with a third party, such as the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNDESA

The D-8 SG had a bilateral meeting with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economy and Social Affairs (USG/ESA), H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, at the USG's Office at the UN Secretariat on 22 September 2022. The USG/ESA reiterated his office's commitment to supporting the program of the D-8 Organization and promised to liaise with the UN Office of Legal Affairs on the possibility of establishing a memorandum of understanding with the D-8 Secretariat.



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ISFD



The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with the Director-General of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, part of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Dr. Hiba Ahmed, at the UNGA Building, in New York, on 22 September 2022.

The D-8 SG proposed the establishment of triangular cooperation between the D-8 Organization, UNOSSC, and IsDB, which the IsDB is keen on exploring more. The possibility of creating joint programs between the two entities would also be explored.

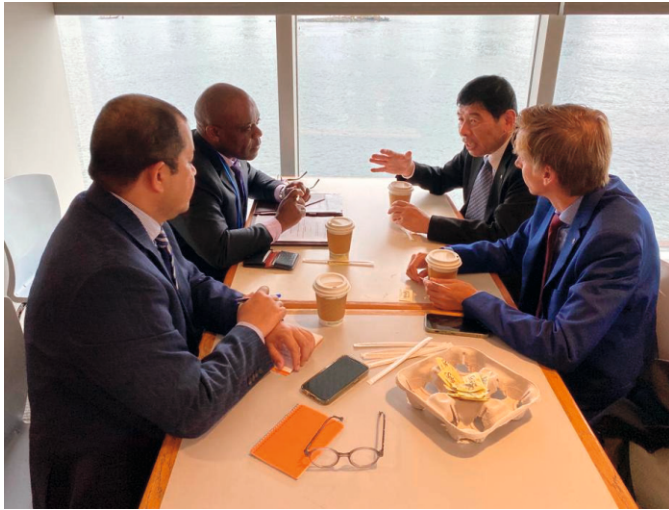
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF OIC TO THE UN

The D-8 SG paid a courtesy visit to the Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the UN in New York, H.E. Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru, at the Permanent Observer Office in New York, on 22 September 2022. They discussed ways to implement the existing MoU between the D-8 Organization and OIC. They agreed to update contact points to reflect the dynamic in each other's Organizations.

It was agreed to draft a plan of action that would contain programs to effectively implement the existing MoU. This will cover e-commerce, food security, and research institute.



D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WCO



The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), H.E. Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, at the UN Secretariat, on 22 September 2022. They discussed the pending joint capacity-building program on digital forensics caused by the lack of funding. The D-8 Secretary-General also solicited other capacity-building programs on customs-related matters. The two interlocutors agreed to explore possible external sources of funding to carry out their joint programs.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF UNDESA

The D-8 SG held a meeting with the Director of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Mr. Juwang Zhu, at the UNDP Office in New York on 20 September 2022. The meeting discussed the contribution of digitalization to support the attainment of SDGs.

They also discussed the forthcoming Capacity Building Training Programme to be organized jointly by the D-8 Secretariat and UN DESA, in Istanbul on 17-18 November 2022. The UN DESA will connect the D-8 with relevant UN agencies on e-commerce.



D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN



The D-8 SG had a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), H.E. Dato' Lim Jock Hoi, at the UN Secretariat Building, on 23 September 2022. The two Secretaries-General exchanged views on the structure, management, and operationalization of each other's secretariat. The ASEAN SG expressed his readiness to forge more robust cooperation between the D-8 Secretariat and the ASEAN Secretariat through regular exchange of information on events and activities, exchanging visits, and participating in each other's capacity-building programs.

COURTESY VISITS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED THE PRESIDENT OF DEIK



The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK) of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Nail Olpak, at the latter's office, on 8 August 2022.

The possibility of joint activities to develop logistics and sectoral cooperation between DEIK and D-8 Countries were discussed, during the meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO OTIMED MEDICAL COMPANY IN MALATYA, TURKIYE



The Secretary-General of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, visited a medical company, OTIMED, in Malatya, on 17-18 August 2022. The company produces orthopedic surgery implants and some other medical equipment. The Meeting explored possible areas of cooperation, including the company's production capacity for export.

Ambassador Imam congratulated the CEO for exporting its products to more than ten countries, including the Republic of Indonesia. He expressed the Secretariat's readiness to provide appropriate assistance to broaden the company's market to the other D-8 Member States.

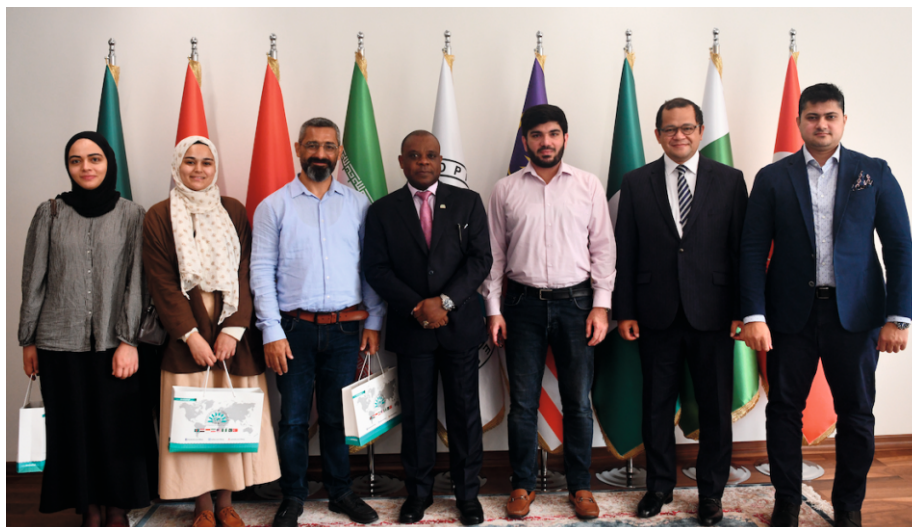
AMBASSADOR IMAM RECEIVED THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIAN BULK ELECTRICITY TRADING PLC



The Secretary-General of Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, received in audience members of the Governing Board of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading PLC (NBET). They visited the Republic of Türkiye in September 2022. The Governing Board of NBET was in Türkiye to sign a partnership deal with the Energy Exchange Istanbul (EXIST), one of the leading energy firms in Türkiye, to strengthen the revenue generation and performance of the Nigerian power sector.

During the visit, Mr. Onder Yol, Chairman of ZY Electric Company in Türkiye, was present to introduce his company. He explained his company projects in the renewable energy sector and expressed his readiness to cooperate under mutually beneficial arrangements.

THE DELEGATION OF EPAM VISITED THE D-8 SECRETARIAT



A delegation from the Education Policy Research Center (EPAM) of Türkiye, led by the Coordinator of EPAM, Mr. İbrahim Hakan Karataş, paid a courtesy visit to the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul, on 22 August 2022. The Meeting discussed cooperation in the area of education reforms. The EPAM also invited the D-8 SG to attend its education conference in October 2022.

AMBASSADOR IMAM VISITS NBET, REITERATES D-8 ORGANIZATION'S SUPPORT FOR NIGERIA'S POWER SECTOR REFORMS



The Secretary General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, paid an unscheduled visit to the Abuja, Nigeria Headquarters of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Company PLC (NBET) on 13 September, 2022, while on a brief visit to Nigeria.

During the visit, Ambassador Imam was received by the Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Company. Dr Nnaemeka Ewelukwe.

While addressing the management and staff of the company, the Secretary General reiterated his earlier promise to the Board of Directors of NBET when they visited the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul Turkiye, sometime in August 2022 that the organization would lend its support to the Nigeria's power sector reforms for improved performance. He expressed his satisfaction about the immense opportunities that abound in the Nigerian power sector and pledged to collaborate for sustainable development of the sector.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED THE PRESIDENT OF KOSGEB

The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, paid a courtesy visit to the President of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Organization of the Republic of Türkiye (KOSGEB), Mr. Hasan Basri Kurt, at the Headquarters of KOSGEB in Ankara, on 26 September 2022. The D-8 SG emphasized that SMEs play an essential role in the overall economic development of the D-8 Member States. He added that the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), which is



expected to take off by the end of October this year, will make positive and vital contributions to the growth of SMEs. The D-8 SG also invited KOSGEB to participate at the First D-8 SMEs Forum and Health Market in Abuja, Nigeria, on 26-27 October 2022.

MEETINGS, WEBINARS, EVENTS

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN A PANEL OF DISCUSSION ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) IN IRAN



During his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, participated as a panelist in a panel discussion on Corporate Social Responsibility organized as part of activities during the Asian Mayors Forum in Tehran, Iran on 6 July 2022.

DEVELOPMENTS AT D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES

D-8 HSP HOLDS WORKSHOP TO ESTABLISH UMMA ZAKAT FUNDS



The Developing Eight Organization for Health and Social Protection (D-8HSP), one of the affiliate bodies of D-8 Organization, has successfully held a workshop on 20 July, 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria to establish Umma Zakat funds, an Islamic philanthropic mechanism for pooling funds generated from Zakat together to lift millions of poor citizens of D-8 Member countries out of poverty, annually.

The workshop which was held in a hybrid format was attended by stakeholders from different Islamic Organizations in Nigeria, Development Partners, Organized Private Sectors and Banking Institutions.

The Secretary General of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, who addressed the workshop virtually from Istanbul, Turkiye reminded the participants and Muslim umma in general on the importance of effective cooperation through social activities as a weapon to eliminate hunger, poverty, improve livelihoods and promote healthy condition of Muslims living in D-8 Member Countries.

During the workshop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of non-disclosure was signed between D-8 HSP and its partners.



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