



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



46th SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION ISTANBUL, 15-16 FEBRUARY 2023

The 46th Session of the D-8 Commission was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 15-16 February 2023 with the participation of Commissioners from Ministries of Foreign Affairs of D-8 Member States.

The D-8 commission issued a Joint Communique to commiserate with the Government and people of Türkiye for the earthquake that struck Türkiye on 6 February 2023, which claimed more than 50.000 lives.

This issue's highlight:

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S OFFICIAL
VISIT TO IRAN**

**D-8 NETWORK OF PIONEERS FOR
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
(D-8 NPRI) MEETING IN PAKISTAN**

**7th HIGH COUNCIL MEETING OF D-8
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND
EXCHANGE NETWORK (TTEN) HELD
IN IRAN**

MOU WITH IRNA, ISC, AND IOFS

**INAUGURATION OF THE D-8
RESEARCH CENTER ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY**



HEADLINES

- **STATUTORY MEETINGS**
- **VISITS, EVENTS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**
- **ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES**



A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Readers

I am happy to present the first edition for 2023 of the official newsletter of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8 Organization). I am equally happy to inform you that starting in 2023, this Newsletter will reach you in a fully digital format. I trust that it would be easier for us to reach you that way and, vice-versa, it would be easier for you to enjoy this Newsletter's content digitally since you can access it virtually everywhere.

And since this is the first time, I greet you through this medium, allow me to wish you the best for 2023.

Indeed, we started this year on a relatively somber note. A devastating earthquake rocked the southern part of Türkiye on 6 February 2023. To date, the death toll reached 50.000 casualties. The earthquake also caused infrastructure destruction in some of the cities in southern Türkiye and neighboring Syria. It is heartening to note, however, that the D-8 Member States, together with more than 80 other countries, were swift in providing aid and assistance to Türkiye. We are confident that with such a demonstration of solidarity, the reconstruction process in Türkiye will move swiftly.

Against the backdrop of the earthquake, the D-8 Secretariat hosted the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 15-16 February 2023. Driven by the spirit of collaboration and consensus, our Commissioners managed to reach several momentous agreements to enable the D-8 Organization to move forward further and faster. Another significant key outcome of the 46th Commission is the Joint Communique issued to reiterate our solidarity with Türkiye in the wake of the devastating earthquake.

On the sectoral cooperation, and initiated by its affiliate bodies, the D-8 Organization convened momentous events, such as the meeting of the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8TTEN) in Iran, the meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (NPRI) as well as the inauguration of the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security, both in Pakistan.

On the external front, I attended various meetings of our partner organizations, most notably, the 26th Session of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Economic Cooperation Organizations (COM ECO 26) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in January 2023 and the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC CFM 49) in Nouakchott, Mauritania in March 2023—both thanks to the invitation from the respective Secretaries-General of the two organizations.

I also attended an important event, namely the Luncheon on the Zero Waste Initiative, which H.E. Madame Emine Erdoğan, the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, hosted at the Presidential Palace in Ankara in January 2023. The event is crucial since it is highly relevant to the D-8 Organization in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is, therefore, only logical and highly timely that the United Nations granted the First Lady the First United Nations Sustainable Development Awards in 2021 and proclaimed the International Day of Zero Waste to be commemorated every 30 March.



During the first quarter of 2023, I also received important dignitaries and engaged with my counterparts from other organizations and entities. I received visits from the Pakistani National Management College, the Erbakan Foundation, the International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). I also visited other organizations, such as the Organization of Turkic States in Istanbul.

During the same period, the D-8 Organization also inked four Memoranda of Understanding, respectively, with the Iranian News Agency (IRNA), the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), and the Islamic Organization for Food Security.

And in line with my creed to maximize all business travels, I conducted bilateral meetings with several dignitaries during my visits to Tashkent and Nouakchott. There are several tangible outcomes from those meetings, which I am enthusiastic to follow up on.

Indeed, tangible projects and programs are the core at which the D-8 Organization operates in its second life cycle since our establishment in 1997. We also collaborated with other international organizations and partners in several activities. One notable mention is the joint webinar with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on e-government in March, which was followed with the joint Workshop on e-Government in Istanbul in November 2022. We are also in close contact with other agencies, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to explore possible areas of collaboration. We believe that only through collaboration can we achieve the intended goal of the Organization as our Founders set more than a quarter of a century ago.

To further expand the Organization's visibility, we are also active on various social media platforms. Therefore, allow me to invite you to follow our social media accounts, if you have not done so, through the link listed at the end of this Newsletter.

To conclude, allow me to state, once again, that I am honored to greet you all through this Newsletter. I sincerely hope that you find this Newsletter useful and that you can take some valuable information from it. Should you have further inquiries, please contact my colleagues or me at the D-8 Secretariat through the contact provided. All the email addresses of my colleagues are openly available on our website: www.developing8.org.

I wish you all the best in 2023. Stay healthy, and may God bless us all.

Yours truly,

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary-General

STATUTORY MEETINGS

The 46th Session of the D-8 Commission

Istanbul, 15-16 February 2023



The D-8 Secretariat hosted the 46th Session of the D-8 Commission in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 15-16 February 2023. Madame Wahida Ahmed, the D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh, chaired the Session, which all Commissioners from the D-8 Member States attended.

Convened against the backdrop of the devastating earthquake that struck Türkiye on 6 February 2023, the D-8 Commissioners issued a Joint Communique extending their sympathies and condolences to the people and Government of Türkiye in response to the earthquake that

claimed more than 50.000 lives and destroyed uncountable infrastructure in the southern part of the country.

The Commissioners expressed their confidence that with the outpouring of international assistance, including from the D-8 Member States, Türkiye will be able to reconstruct the situation soon. The Communique also stated that the Organization would discuss ways and means through which they can collaborate even better in the face of unforeseen natural disasters in the future.

During the Session, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, presented the Organization's update and achievements since the previous session in July 2022.

The Secretary-General highlighted several outcomes of the sectoral cooperation, particularly on transportation, industry and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), health, and agriculture. He also presented an update on the activities of the D-8 Affiliate Bodies.

The Secretary-General also underlined the strengthened collaboration with other international organizations as a part of the D-8 Organization's effort to increase its visibility.



In her opening remarks, Madame Wahida Ahmed, the Chairperson of the Session, underlined the importance of materializing all previously agreed programs into fruition. She called on all Member States to actively participate and execute their proposed programs. She also touched upon substantive topics in the energy, agriculture, and creative economy sectors.

During the substantive part of the Session, the Commissioners presented their respective country's progress and priorities in moving the D-8 Organization forward. They shared that efforts must be doubled to expedite the implementation of various tangible projects identified since the adoption of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030. In addition, they supported the Secretary-General's effort to engage with other international organizations and potential financial partners to support the implementation of the Organization's programs.

The D-8 Commission also received updates on the activities of the D-8 Affiliated Bodies, which were presented by each of the Bodies. They welcomed many initiatives introduced by the Affiliated Bodies and enjoined them to find creative ways to finance the proposed activities.

The D-8 Commission also welcomed and approved several new proposed activities of the Organization, both within the scope of sectoral cooperation and external relations. Among the activities that are within the Organization's pipeline are the UNCTAD-D8 Joint Event at the 8th World Investment Forum in Dubai in October 2023, the First D-8 Energy Forum in Lagos, Nigeria in 2023, the establishment of the D-8 Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises in Abuja, Nigeria, the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council in Bangladesh, and the creation of a D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center in Kuala Lumpur.



While in Istanbul, the D-8 Commissioners also visited the D-8 Secretariat. The Secretary-General underlined that the visit by the Commissioners to the Secretariat provided an opportunity for the Commissioners to see firsthand the atmosphere of the Secretariat in executing mandates accorded to it.



The D-8 Commission is the executive organ of the D-8 Organization and functions under the guidance of the Council of Ministers. The Commission meets twice yearly for its regular session and can convene special sessions when necessary. The D-8 Commission submit the result of their meetings to the Council for approval and endorsement. The Commission also prepares the meetings of the Council and the Summit. The Commissioner from the Member State chairing the Organization automatically assumes the role of the Chair of the Commission's Session.



COURTESY VISITS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

VISIT OF SMIIC TO THE D-8 SECRETARIAT

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, received the Delegation of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 12 January 2023. The Secretary-General of SMIIC, Mr. İhsan Övüt, led the delegation of SMIIC.

In the meeting, the two dignitaries agreed on some points to advance cooperation. They have decided that D-8 Secretariat and the SMIIC Secretariat will ink a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering the cooperation in the relevant and common areas of the two Organizations. This MoU will include joint capacity-building programs, workshops, and training programs on standards for products and services.



VISIT FROM BSEC TO D-8 SECRETARIAT



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, had a cordial meeting with the First Deputy Secretary-General of the Black Sea Economic Organization (BSEC), Ambassador Merve Safa KAVAKCI, at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 12 January 2023. Among the topics discussed were women's empowerment and strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.

THE DELEGATION OF NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COLLEGE OF PAKISTAN VISITED THE D-8 SECRETARIAT

Ambassador Isaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, received a delegation from Pakistan's National Management College (NMC) at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 16 January 2023.

The D-8 Secretary-General briefed the Pakistani Delegation on his organization's programs, activities, and initiatives. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the two organizations to exchange views and ideas for the furtherance of their cooperation.

Ambassador Imam took the opportunity to underline Pakistan's active role in the D-8 Organization.



D-8 SG ATTENDED THE LUNCH PROGRAMME HOSTED BY THE FIRST LADY OF TÜRKIYE



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the Lunch Programme on Zero Waste initiative to advance the UN SDG Goals, hosted by the First Lady of Türkiye, H.E. Emine Erdoğan, in Ankara on 17 January 2023.

The D-8 Secretary-General had the opportunity to personally praise the First Lady for spearheading the 'Sıfır Atık' (Zero Waste) for the betterment of the world. He also congratulated the First Lady for being awarded the UN First Sustainable Development Goals Action Award in 2021.

THE D-8 MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA IN ANKARA

Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador of Malaysia to Türkiye, H.E. Ambassador Sazali Mustafa Kamal, in Ankara, on 18 January 2023.

The D-8 Secretary-General thanked Ambassador Sazali Mustafa Kamal for Malaysia's active role in the D-8 organization. The D-8 SG invited Ambassador Sazali to support D-8's future activities, continuously.



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION OF TÜRKIYE



The D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, met with the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Türkiye, Prof. Kemal Yüksek, at the latter's office, in Ankara, on 19 January 2023.

They had a fruitful meeting and discussed the follow-up of the 12th D-8 Director General of Civil Aviation Meeting held in Bali in October 2023, including training & capacity building, and cooperation in air services within the D-8.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH TEPAV

The D-8 Delegation, led by Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, visited the HQ of The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Türkiye (TEPAV), a foremost economic think-tank in Türkiye. The D-8 Secretary-General met with Ms. Gülbin Şahinbeyoğlu, Director of the Economic Data Analysis Center of TEPAV, in Ankara, on 18 January 2023.

They discussed the economic performance and potential of the D-8 Member States. TEPAV presented several ideas to bolster the economic activities of D-8, including creating a complementary economy in the D-8 Organization.



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PAID A VISIT TO UNRC IN ANKARA



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with the UN Regional Coordinator, H.E. Alvaro Rodriguez, in Ankara, on 19 January 2023.

The meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the existing collaboration between D-8 and the UN in attaining UN SDGs.

The D-8 SG thanked the UNRC for facilitating the UNDESA – D8 E-government workshop in Istanbul in November last year. As a result, several more projects are identified for the future.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN TÜRKİYE

Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended a working lunch hosted by Mr. Viorel Gutu, Rep. of the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO) in Ankara, Türkiye, on 19 January 2023. The meeting continued their previous engagements to bolster collaboration between D-8 and FAO in agriculture & food security.

The D-8 SG enjoined the FAO Representative to support D-8 in implementing objectives in agriculture and food security. The discussion provided an excellent background in elaborating on the potential for joint projects on fisheries and aquaculture.



THE D-8 SG PARTICIPATED IN ECO'S COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, received renewed support from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hossein Amirabdollahian, in executing the activities and strengthening cooperation of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8). The renewed support was expressed in a meeting between the D-8 Secretary-General and the Iranian Foreign Minister on the sideline of the 26th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tashkent in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Ambassador Imam was in Tashkent on the invitation from ECO to attend the 26th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) of ECO, hosted by Bakhtiyor Saidov, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In Tashkent, the D-8 Secretary-General paid a courtesy call on H.E. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. During the meeting, Ambassador Imam presented the status update of the Organization that he has led since January last year. Among the achievements presented was the conclusion of the Trade Facilitation Strategy and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism protocols of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement.

Ambassador Imam also paid a courtesy call on Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Secretary-General praised Pakistan's active role and significant contributions to the D-8 Organization.

Foreign Minister Zardari recalled that he had known the D-8 Organization in the past and, thus, emboldened his resolve to support the Organization. He expressed his readiness to strengthen cooperation in tourism by facilitating the 3rd D-8 Tourism Ministers Meeting in Pakistan in 2023.



At the margin of the Session, Ambassador Imam also met with Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary-General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The two Secretaries-General exchanged views on the activities and achievements in their respective organizations, while promising to explore areas of possible collaboration.



To broaden the opportunity to secure funding for the organization, Ambassador Imam also met with Mr. Enrico Pinali, the Asian Development Bank's representative for Uzbekistan. Ambassador Imam stressed that collaboration with other international partners is imperative for the D-8 Organization to execute its tangible projects. The Secretary-General apprised Asian Development Bank (ADB) about the Project Support Fund initiative of the D8 and solicited the support of the ADB in funding D8 projects with bankable feasibility studies. Mr. Pinalli welcomed the proposal from the DG SG. He presented some opportunities that can be tapped by the D-8 Organization, noting that some Members of the D-8 are also members of the ADB.



Concluding his program in Tashkent, Ambassador Imam met Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, the Secretary-General of ECO. He thanked his host for inviting him to attend the 26th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of ECO. The two Secretaries-General underscored the need to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between them, which was signed in 2011, noting that the participation of Ambassador Imam at the 26th Session of the COM ECO was, in fact, in accordance with the existing MoU. While commenting on his visit to Tashkent, Ambassador Imam expressed his confidence that it had achieved its intended purpose. “It is in line with my twin vision to broaden and strengthen collaboration with other organizations and partners,” he said. “It will enhance the global visibility of the D-8, which ultimately will broaden our opportunity to tap into vast resources that our partners can offer.”



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA



Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, enjoined D-8 Ambassadors accredited to the Republic of Türkiye to support the D-8 Secretariat in its ongoing effort to enhance the visibility of the D-8 Organization in Türkiye. The D8 Scribe made the call during a luncheon hosted in his honor by the Indonesian Ambassador in Ankara, H.E. Dr. Lalu M. Iqbal, on 30 January 2023. The event was attended by envoys from D8 countries in Ankara, including Ambassador Esen Altuğ, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, who also doubles as D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye.

Ambassador Imam used the occasion to update the Member States' Ambassadors on the current status and future direction of the D-8 Organization. In addition, he provided an update on the status of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement, which he said was at an advanced stage and nearing full operationalization.

Ambassador Imam also presented activities undertaken with other international organizations to enhance the D-8 global visibility. He highlighted joint programs with the United Nations specialized agencies, organized in 2022, and presented the programs planned for 2023.

On their part, the envoys discussed the way forward for the organization. They underscored the need for the D8 to also prioritize strengthening cooperation in the tourism sector in anticipation of tourism rebound after the Covid-19 pandemic.

D-8 SG VISITED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES IN ISTANBUL

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). The two Secretaries-General were committed to forging closer cooperation in their common interests.

The two Secretaries General also agreed to explore cooperation in the areas of economy, trade, energy, customs and tourism, SME, and the organized private sector, including the chambers of commerce of the two organizations. Cooperation will also be extended to exchanging information and sharing best practices in selective areas.



THE D-8 AND ISC SIGNED AN MOU TO PURSUE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The D-8 Organization strengthened its cooperation with the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) by signing a memorandum of understanding at the premise of the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on Monday, 13 February 2023. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, and Prof. Dr. Seyed Ahmad Fazelzadeh, the President of the ISC, signed the memorandum on behalf of their respective organizations.

The signed memorandum encompasses cooperation promotion among scientists, increasing the performance of the research institutions, developing a needs and ideas platform for the D-8 Organization, and joint activities to promote both organizations' visibility. The memorandum was signed to replace the two previous memorandums in 2012 and 2018.

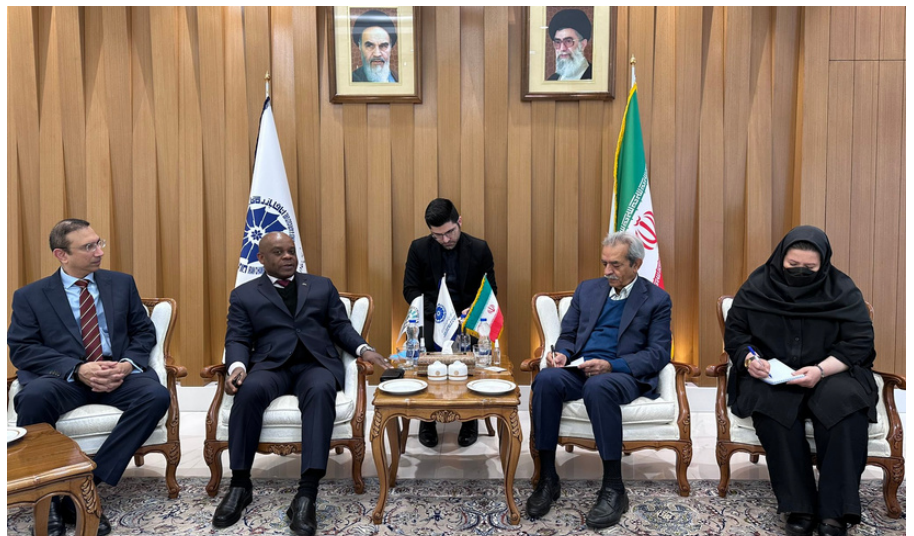
Ambassador Imam and Prof. Fazelzadeh expressed their commitment to implementing the memorandum effectively. Ambassador Imam said that human resources development, including in the academic sector, is one of the priorities of the D-8. He underlined the establishment of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI), based at the Comsats University in Islamabad, Pakistan, as a tangible example.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ICCIMA

On 28 February 2023, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with the President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Mr. Gholamhossein Shafei, at the headquarters of ICCIMA, in Tehran.

The meeting discussed the importance and ways of implementing the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) between member states and facilitating the Visa Agreement for business people to increase economic interaction among D-8 countries.

Furthermore, Ambassador Imam briefed the President of ICCIMA on the activities and initiatives put in place to boost trade and investment, such as D-8 Creative Economic and Financial Center (D-8 CEFC), and the proposed D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Trade scheduled to be held in Bangladesh later in the year. The D-8 Secretary-General also briefed on the current situation of member countries regarding D-8 PTA and dispute settlement mechanism on PTA.



SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLED ON THE ICT MINISTER OF IRAN

During his visit to Iran, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Information and Communications Technology of Iran, H.E. Issa Zarepour, at the latter's office in Tehran, on 28 February 2023.

The Secretary-General briefed the Minister on the activities and initiatives of D-8 in the ICT sector. He underscored the importance of ICT in advancing cooperation among D-8 countries emphasizing the critical role of ICT in enhancing connectivity between D-8 member states located on different continents. In this context, the Secretary-General pointed out the need for and importance of gathering Experts and Ministers in the ICT area to create ideas and initiatives which will increase the engagement among D-8 Member Countries in the area of ICT development.



In response, the Minister briefed the Secretary-General about Iran's active role in Information and Communications Technology and expressed his country's readiness to hold the D-8 Experts and Ministerial Meeting on Energy in Iran and share Iran's expertise with other countries of the D8.

THE D-8 AND IRNA INKED AN MOU TO ADVANCE COOPERATION



During his visit to Iran, the D-8 Secretary-General also inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the D-8 Organization and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) on 1 March 2023. The signing of the MoU was part of the Meeting between the D-8 Secretary-General and the Managing Director of IRNA, Mr. Ali Naderi. The MoU is aimed at boosting cooperation between the two institutions. The signed MoU commits the two organizations to work together closely towards attaining their goals, one of which is to enhance the visibility of their respective organizations. The Memorandum of Understanding also includes organizing joint training programs and coverage and disseminating activities of the D-8 Organization in Iran and other parts of the world.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLED ON THE ENERGY MINISTER OF IRAN



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Ali Akbar Mehrabian, at the Ministry's building in Tehran, on 1 March 2023. The two dignitaries had a fruitful discussion on various issues relevant to the Energy sector, particularly electricity and renewable energy.

The Secretary-General underlined the role of energy in industrial development of the member states and called for enhanced cooperation in the area of energy. He emphasized the need for regular meetings of Experts and Ministers in Energy to establish a concrete mechanism for advancing cooperation in this critical area.

In response, the Minister briefed the Secretary-General on the activities, projects, and initiatives of the Government of Iran on Energy. He noted that the D8 Organization has huge potential for growth in the area of energy and called for more cooperation in that filed.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTER OF PAKISTAN



On 5 March 2023, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with the Interior Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Rana Sanaullah Khan, during the inauguration of the D-8 Research Center on Agriculture and Food Security in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Ambassador Imam briefed the Minister about the D-8 Organization, as well as the updates in the field of agriculture and food security.

He underscored the importance of Pakistan's role as host of the D-8 Research Center on Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS). The Minister assured of Pakistan's continued support for the D-8 Organization.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLED ON THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF PAKISTAN

During his visit to Pakistan, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Asad M. Khan, on 10 March 2023.

In the meeting, the Foreign Secretary stated that, as a founding member, Pakistan is committed to strengthening economic and trade cooperation with all D-8 partners.



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLED ON THE ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN



During his visit to Pakistan, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with the Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Sports and Tourism, Mr. Awn Chaudhry, on 13 March 2023. The meeting discussed cooperation in the Tourism sector. Mr. Chaudhry expressed Pakistan's commitment to host the 3rd D8 Tourism Minister's Meeting in the last week of July 2023.

SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF FPCCI



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), in Islamabad on 10 March 2023. The two sides discussed ways to enhance trade among D-8 members. D-8 Secretary-General informed Mr. Sheikh about the D8 PTA, which is expected to be operationalized soon.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam stated that the D-8 platform expands the level of innovation in the Member States to bring about economic growth, which is essential for the sustainable development of the D-8 Member States.

He stressed the importance of collaboration between and among the D-8 Member States in science, research, and technology activities to enhance technological advancements. Speaking further, D8 SG underscored the need to expand the scope and range of cooperative activities to include new areas.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President of FPCCI, stressed the need to implement the D-8 PTA at the earliest and in its true spirit, as regional trade will bring prosperity and economic cooperation to the entire region. He also stated that Pakistan's vision for geo-economics had socio-economic growth, connectivity, and development at its core.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PAID A VISIT TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY OF PAKISTAN

The Secretary-General of D-8, Ambassador Isiaka Imam, met with Mr. Mazhar Javed, Director-General of the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan, on 10 March 2023 and discussed possibilities to arrange a diplomatic training programme for junior diplomats from D8 countries.



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS IN MAURITANIA FOR THE OIC CFM 49



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 49th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC CFM 49) in Nouakchott, Mauritania from 16-17 March 2023. The D-8 SG was there upon the invitation from H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha, the Secretary-General of OIC. The D-8 subscribed to the theme of the OIC CFM 49 “Moderation: The Key to Security and Stability”. The D-8 Secretary-General emphasized that the D-8 Member States and global community require security and stability as a prerequisite to development.

At the margin of the OIC CFM 49, the D-8 Secretary-General signed a memorandum of understanding with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 17 March 2023. The D-8 Secretary-General, and his counterpart, HE Yerlan Baidalet, the IOFS Director-General, expressed their shared confidence that the MoU would enable the two Organizations to forge stronger collaboration in the agriculture and food security area. The two leaders agreed to supplement the MoU with a Joint Action Plan, currently under negotiation.



The D-8 Secretary-General also had a side meeting with H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye, at the margin of the 49th Session of OIC CFM in Nouakchott on 17 March 2023.

They discussed ways to strengthen the D-8 role in bringing the utmost benefit to its people. Deputy FM Bozay invited the D-8 SG to Ankara to have a detailed discussion on this matter.

The D-8 Secretary-General also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Zubairu Dada, the Hon. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, at the margin of OIC CFM in Nouakchott, on 17 March 2023.

The D-8 SG presented the Minister with updates and development in the D-8, including the preparation for the D-8 PTA, the follow-up on Abuja’s D-8 SME Forum, and administrative matters of the Organization.



ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES

THE 7TH MEETING OF D-8 TTEN HIGH COUNCIL AND 5TH TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT MEETING, TEHRAN, 27-28 FEBRUARY 2023



The 7th High Council Meeting (HCM) of the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) was held successfully in a hybrid format at the Pardis Technology Park in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, from 27-28 February 2023. The relevant authorities of D-8 countries participated in the Meeting.

In his statement, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, stated that the objectives of D-8 TTEN have gained more importance in today's world, where technological advancement continues to grow rapidly. He added that technology collaboration and sharing technical developments and achievements are more important and meaningful today.

He concluded his remarks by stating that the High Council Meeting will succeed when new opportunities for addressing everyday needs with science-based approaches have been identified and deployed to achieve societal and environmental impact for a more sustainable future.



The D-8 Secretary-General also participated in the 5th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM 2023) held in Pardis Technology Park on 27-28 February 2023, where he delivered a keynote speech. This important event was also attended by Dr. Dehghani Firoozabadi, the Vice-President of Science and Technology of Iran, Dr. Mehdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy of Iran, the D-8 Commissioner of Iran, Director General Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, representatives from various government authorities and private entities and media houses.

The 5th Technology Investment Meeting also hosted many investors, start-ups, and entrepreneurs from D-8 countries and beyond.

The D-8 Secretary-General, in his remarks, introduced the activities, key features, and potential of the D-8 Organization, stressing that technology provides a platform for innovation, creates jobs, and boosts productivity. He stated that technological innovation is the main driver for economic growth in virtually all facets of economic and social activities worldwide.

THE 2ND MEETING OF THE D-8 NETWORK OF PIONEERS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (D-8 NPRI), ISLAMABAD, 8-9 MARCH 2023



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated in the Second Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) in Islamabad from 8-9 March 2023. The meeting was organized by the COMSATS University Islamabad, in its capacity as the current Chair of the D-8 NPRI.

The D-8 NPRI Meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, the Rector of COMSATS University Chancellors.

Other participants included Vice Chancellors from D-8 NPRI Universities, representatives of some D-8 foreign missions Countries in Pakistan, and intellectuals from various institutions in Pakistan and other D-8 countries.

In his opening statement, the D-8 Secretary-General pointed out that D-8 countries, as developing countries, have tremendous potential for growth. He called on D-8 member countries to harness and seize this potential for the Organization's future progress and its technological advancements, through joint research works and knowledge sharing.



Speaking further, the D8 SG enjoined the D-8 NPRI to support the economic growth of the Organization by carrying out tasks such as conducting joint research projects in industrial and technical fields, enhancing the standard of creativity and research, expanding laboratory facilities, instituting research fellow exchange programs, encouraging the creation of Joint Ventures, etc. Furthermore, Ambassador Imam called on the NPRI to collaborate with other D-8 Affiliate Bodies and Research Institutes of Member States for research activities in identified areas that benefit the Organization's economic development. NPRI was also urged to collaborate with other institutions to explore funding sources for conducting research activities.

Chancellors and Vice Chancellors, as well as university dons from the D-8 Member States, exchanged views and ideas regarding future activities and plans of D-8 NPRI.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF THE D-8 RESEARCH CENTER ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (D-8 RCAFS) IN FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN, 6 MARCH 2023



The D-8 Secretary-General attended the inauguration of the D-8 Research Center on Agriculture and Food Security (RCAF) in the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, on 6 March 2023. The inauguration was part of the activities of the International Conference on “Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities in D-8 Countries”, organized by the University of Agriculture in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of some D-8 Member States in Pakistan also attended the event.

The D-8 Secretary-General delivered his address at the program and expressed optimism that the Center will serve as a hub for bringing together the expertise and resources of member countries to develop solutions for promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The Secretary-General stressed that D-8 countries must be committed to providing the necessary resources, funding, and expertise to ensure that the Center can fulfill its mission of promoting research and innovation in agriculture and food security.

Speaking further, the D8 SG pointed out that agriculture has played a significant role in the development trajectory of the D-8 over the years. He stressed that the sector generates massive revenue for D-8 countries and provides livelihoods for millions of people in member states and must therefore be prioritized for development.

He concluded by expressing hope that the Center would serve as a hub for bringing together the expertise and resources of member countries to develop solutions for promoting sustainable agricultural practices.





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