



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



This issue's highlight:

**3rd D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
TOURISM WAS HELD**

**D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE 78th UNGA**

**AMBASSADOR IMAM WAS IN
IRAN FOR ECO ICT MINISTERIAL
MEETING**

**D-8 SG PAID COURTESY CALL ON
TO MALAYSIA**

**AMBASSADOR IMAM WAS IN
JEDDAH FOR BILATERAL MEETINGS**

THE 3rd D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TOURISM WAS HELD IN PAKISTAN

The Member States of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) agreed to rejig the tourism sector to enhance cooperation on sustainable tourism. This commitment was voiced during the Fourth Senior Officials and Third Ministerial meetings on Tourism, held in Bhurban, Muree, Pakistan from 3 - 5 August 2023.



HEADLINES

- **ACTIVITIES ON SECTORAL COOPERATION**
- **SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION TO THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK**
- **VISITS, EVENTS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished Readers,

As 2023 entered its third quarter, the D-8 Organization continued with its programs and activities at a rapid pace.

We have recorded various activities at the sectoral cooperation, most notably in the areas of tourism, information and communication technology, and trade. While on the external relations front, our highlight is the D-8 Secretariat's participation at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from 19-23 September 2023.

We have also expanded and strengthened our networks with other international organizations, including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the United Nations systems. For example, we organized a virtual workshop on guiding principles with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). We are also in close contact with other entities to organize joint projects.

To harness stronger support from the Member States, I paid a visit to Malaysia in July 2023. In Malaysia, I was honoured to be hosted by His Excellency Zambry Abdul Kadir, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, and met with notable Malaysian dignitaries, including Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad, one of the Fathers of our beloved organization.

The D-8 sub-organizations have also been active during the 3rd quarter of 2023. The D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8TTEN) is gearing up to organize its 10th Anniversary next October. Similarly, the D-8 International University is preparing to organize its 3rd Board of Trustees meeting in October this year.

In the meantime, our esteemed Member States are also devising ways and means to continuously materialize the organization's goals, as envisaged by its founders more than 26 years ago. One of their priorities is, of course, the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), a monumental instrument to boost intra-trade among the D-8 Member States.



All these activities are captured in this edition's Newsletter. It will provide you, our esteemed readers, with a glimpse of what our organization has done and achieved.

This Newsletter can also serve as a mirror to reflect what we must improve collectively as an organization. Therefore, I always welcome inputs and suggestions for that particular purpose. As always, should you have any inputs or suggestions, do not hesitate to write us through all the channels listed in this Newsletter.

Please accept my warmest regards.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization

ACTIVITIES ON SECTORAL COOPERATION

THE THIRD D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TOURISM, BHURBAN, MUREE, PAKISTAN, 3-5 AUGUST 2023



The Member States of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) agreed to rejig the tourism sector to enhance cooperation on sustainable tourism. This commitment was voiced during the Fourth Senior Officials and Third Ministerial meetings on Tourism, held in Bhurban, Muree, Pakistan from 3 - 5 August 2023.

The Ministers in charge of tourism, senior officials from D-8 Member Countries, and the D-8 Secretary-General attended the meetings.

Delivering his keynote address at the two-day event hosted by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, highlighted the progress on D-8's tourism cooperation in weathering the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. He underscored the need to strengthen tourism to minimize the impact of similar crises in the future.

The D-8 Secretary-General also underscored the importance of implementing the D-8 Comprehensive Strategy on Tourism Cooperation and the Crescent Moon Initiative, which were adopted by D-8 ministers in Kuala Lumpur in 2019.



“Those two initiatives are crucial to bolstering our efforts to restore the tourism industry to its performance before the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” added the D-8 Secretary-General.

Speaking further, the D-8 Secretary-General underscored the significance of tourism for D-8 Member States' economic development. He further praised the idea of D-8 Designated Airports to facilitate people-to-people and business-to-business interactions among member countries. He, therefore, requested policy guidelines from member states to support the organization's objectives in the tourism sector and suggested tangible programs like information exchange, best practices exchange, and cross-border investments.



“Our ultimate goal is to create world-class tourist destinations in all D-8 Member States,” underlined the D-8 Secretary-General.

In his address, the Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism and Sports, H.E. Awn Chaudry, who chaired the meeting, briefed participants on Pakistan’s efforts to promote its tourism. He emphasized the sector's crucial role in further strengthening member states' existing cooperation for sustainable development and economic growth.

The meeting adopted the landmark document, ‘Islamabad Declaration on Tourism Cooperation 2023’, which contains the following critical decisions:

- Develop funding facilities to support the D-8 Project Funding Programme for tourism cooperation.
- Develop a mechanism for selecting the D-8 Tourism City of the Year.
- To organize an annual Forum on Investment Promotion in the Tourism Sector.
- To make the tourist visa application process easier in accordance with national regulations.

The meeting also acknowledged the role of the private sector in the tourism industry and agreed to develop a mechanism to assist the industry stakeholders in promoting tourism activities among D-8 member states. It also emphasized the importance of creating air connectivity as a critical component in promoting tourism amongst its member countries.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation from member states who attended the meeting expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made by the Government of Pakistan towards its successful conclusion, especially to H.E. Awn Chaudhry, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Tourism and Sports, PTDC, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO NEW YORK ON THE OCCASION OF THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid an official visit to New York to participate in the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In addition to attending the General Debate of the High-Level Week of the 78th UNGA, the D-8 Secretary-General also held bilateral meetings with dignitaries of the UN system and other international organizations.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF UNDESA



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, had a meeting with Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director of the Department of Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and his team on 18 September 2023.

The two dignitaries reviewed the past collaboration between the D-8 and the UNDESA on the capacity-building of e-government, with its landmark program, the Workshop on e-Government, held in Istanbul in November 2022. They also explored the possibility of future collaboration to follow up on the outcome of the November 2022 workshop, including the possibility of organizing meeting of the D-8 e-Government Network.

The D-8 and UNDESA will also collaborate on the development of small and medium enterprises within the D8 cooperation agenda.

D-8 SG AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with H.E. QU Dongyu, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), on the margins of the 78th UNGA in New York on 18 September 2023.

The two dignitaries exchanged views on innovation and new technology to support agriculture and food security. The D-8 Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO also discussed possible collaboration between the two organizations. One of the outcomes of the meeting is the resumption of discussion between the D-8 and FAO to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and its work plan.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mme. Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, in New York on 18 September 2023.

The Deputy UN Secretary-General and the D-8 Secretary-General exchanged views on the need to step up efforts to achieve the UN SDGs, to which the D-8 aligns its priority areas. The two dignitaries shared a common view on bolstering collaboration between the UN and the D-8 in their priority areas.



AMBASSADOR IMAM HELD A MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Sir Danny Alexander, the Vice President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), on the margin of the 78th Session of the UNGA in New York on 19 September 2023.

The two interlocutors explored the possibility of collaboration in several areas of the D-8 projects and activities. The D-8 Secretary-General introduced the proposed D-8 Special Economic Zones in Bangladesh to his counterpart. They agreed to hold follow-up meetings at the earliest opportunity.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECOWAS COMMISSION MET IN NEW YORK

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with H.E. Dr. Omar Aliou Touray, the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the margins of the 78th UNGA on Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

The main outcome of the meeting was commitment to implement the MoU between the D-8 and ECOWAS, signed in 2020, in the priority areas of trade, agriculture & food security, and SMEs.



D-8 SG AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR IMAM MET WITH THE D-8 COMMISSIONER OF INDONESIA IN NEW YORK



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Ambassador Tri Tharyat, the D-8 Commissioner of Indonesia, on the margins of the 78th UNGA on Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed important issues, including the future D-8 programs and activities in which Indonesia will play a central role. Ambassador Imam expressed his appreciation for Indonesia's continuous support to the D-8.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNIDO

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Ms. Fatou Haidara, the Deputy Director General of The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), at the UNIDO New York Liaison Office on Wednesday, 20 September 2023. The meeting was part of the D-8 Secretary-General's official visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

The two dignitaries discussed about tangible programs to serve as the low-hanging fruits to operationalize cooperation between D-8 and UNIDO. Their discussions also focused on trade, agriculture, and SMEs.



VISITS, EVENTS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

D-8 AND UNCTAD CO-HOSTED VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS REGIME



The D-8 Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) jointly organized a virtual workshop on the guiding principles of investment to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals on 3 July 2023.

The Workshop was tailored to provide insights on ways of reforming the investment regime that would adapt to climate change and environmental protections in D-8 Member Countries.

The Workshop also laid groundworks for the forthcoming D-8 – UNCTAD Joint Conference on Investment Policy Guide as part of the 8th World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, on 16-20 October 2023.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OF PAKISTAN VISITED D-8 SECRETARIAT

The Foreign Secretary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, accompanied by the Ambassador of Pakistan to Türkiye, H.E. Dr. Yousaf Junaid, visited the D-8 Secretariat and met with the D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, on 7 July 2023.

Welcoming the dignitaries, the D-8 Secretary-General briefed the delegation on the priority agenda and other activities of the D-8 Organization. He praised Pakistan's active contribution to the D-8, including hosting the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security and the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation.



A DELEGATION FROM MUSIAD VISITED D-8 HEADQUARTERS



A delegation from the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) visited the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 10 July 2023 and met with the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam.

The meeting discussed ways of advancing cooperation between the two institutions and the possibilities of joint activities, including in the areas of promotion of investments.

AMBASSADOR IMAM PARTICIPATED IN THE THIRD ECO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ICT IN IRAN

The D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, on the invitation of the Secretary-General of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, participated in the Third ECO Ministerial Meeting on Information and Communication Technology, in Tehran, Iran from 12-13 July 2023.



Ambassador Imam, as one of the panelists, also attended the Ministerial Policy Dialogue Meeting on Digital Future. During the meeting, key opportunities for joint investment in information and communication technology, frameworks, and required actions needed for enhancing cooperation in cybercrime and cyber security, and opportunities for enhancing cooperation in the digital economy were discussed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED MALAYSIA, 24-28 JULY 2023



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid official visit to Malaysia from 24-28 July 2023.

During the visit, H.E. Zambry Abdul Kadir, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, hosted a dinner in honor of the D-8 Secretary-General at EQ Kuala Lumpur Hotel, on 24 July 2023.

At the dinner, the Foreign Minister and the D-8 Secretary-General discussed about ways and means of strengthening cooperation within the framework of the D-8 Organization, particularly on how to further increase Malaysia's participation role and contribution in the activities and programs of the D-8.



They also exchanged views on the digital economy, social development, tourism, and education. Ambassador Imam also called upon Foreign Minister Zambry to operationalize the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8PTA) as soon as possible.

While in Malaysia, the D-8 Secretary-General also met with other important dignitaries such as, the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, the Deputy Minister of Commerce. He also visited the Museum of Islamic Culture in Kuala Lumpur.

D-8 AND AL-HIDAYAH GROUP SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION (MOC)

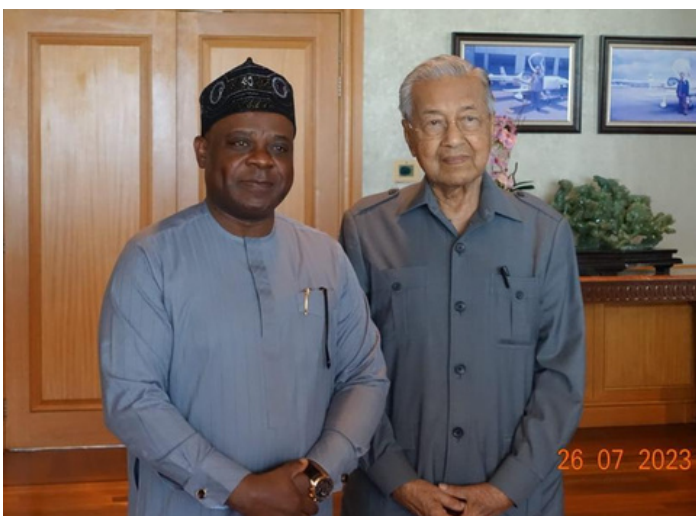


Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, and Dato' Ku Ja'afar Ku Sha'ari, the Chairman of the Al-Hidayah Group of Malaysia, signed the Memorandum of Cooperation between the D-8 Secretariat and Al-Hidayah Group. Sdn. Bhd. in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 26 July 2023.

The Memorandum provides a solid ground for the two entities in their joint efforts to establish the D-8 Creative Economy and Financial Center (D-8 CEFC), which will support the accelerating economic development of the D-8. The D-8 CEFC will comprise of several activities, including a digital platform, which will utilize the vast potential of Islamic economic principles.

Once established, the Al-Hidayah Group will host the D-8 CEFC in their premises in Kuala Lumpur. It will then accelerate programs and projects enumerated in the Memorandum to meet the objectives set forth by the organization.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH H.E. DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, FORMER PM OF MALAYSIA



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with H.E. Dr. Datuk Seri Mahathir bin Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia (1981-2003 and 2018-2020), who is also one of the founding Fathers of D-8, in Kuala Lumpur on 26 July 2023.

The two dignitaries exchanged views on the progress of the D-8 since its inception in 1997. The D-8 Secretary-General apprised Dr. Mahathir of the current status and progress on some of the flagships and activities of the D-8 such as, the D-8 2030 Decennial Roadmap and the D-8 PTA.

AMBASSADOR IMAM DELIVERED KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE INSTITUTE OF REGIONAL STUDIES, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, spoke on his twin-vision of increasing intra-trade relations amongst member states and increasing visibility for the Organization, while addressing the distinguished audience, during a lively discussion hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad in Pakistan on 7 August 2023.

He presented strategies to achieve the D-8's goal as set by its founding Fathers. He also underlined the key priority areas of trade, agricultures, transportation, energy tourism, industry, education, health and ICT, in order to maximize the untapped opportunities for economic advancement of all D-8 Member States.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERED A PRESENTATION AT THE FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY OF PAKISTAN

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, visited the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan in Islamabad, where he delivered a presentation on the future plan of action of the D-8 Organization, on 8 August 2023.

Ambassador Imam expressed his utmost satisfaction with the lively and enriching discussions he had with all the participants.



AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH TO TÜRKIYE VISITED D-8 SECRETARIAT



H.E. Md. Amanul Haq, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, visited the D-8 Secretariat and met with H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, on 10 August 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed various ways to strengthen the existing cooperation within the D-8 framework. They agreed to pursue the convening of the D-8 Trade Ministers Meeting and the D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Youth soon.

D-8 SG AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE VP OF ISDB GROUP



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with the H.E. Mr. Mansur Muhktar, the Vice President Operations of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB Group) in Jeddah on 15 August 2023.

The meeting was also attended by a number of IsDB officials. The two dignitaries engaged in valuable discussion which focused on charting more effective ways of implementing the MoU between the D-8 and IsDB, signed in 2017. The meeting agreed to develop a joint action plan comprised of tangible and impactful programs in the two organization's shared priority areas.

Ambassador Imam and Dr. Muhktar also exchanged views on the current global landscape and were of the same view that the world needed peace and stability now more than ever before, to prevent the looming economic crisis that is about to happen. They both expressed hope that many raging open conflicts around the world will be resolved peacefully soon.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE OIC

H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with H.E. Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (ASG OIC) for Economic Affairs, at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 16 August 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed ways to strengthen collaboration among the OIC and D-8 in their shared priority areas, such as agriculture, food security, trade, small and medium enterprises, energy, and tourism.

They also agreed to embark on establishing a joint action plan to include result-oriented programs and projects.

The D-8 SG, Ambassador Imam, and the ASG OIC also discussed the importance of youth and women empowerment in economic development. They shared their views on why the two organizations must tap into the potential of demographic dividends to advance the socio-economic development of their Member Countries.



AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ICCIA IN JEDDAH



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (ICCIA) in Jeddah, on 18 August 2023. The two dignitaries exchanged views on how to organize activities that would strengthen cooperation between the D-8 and OIC in the economic area. They agreed to have further discussions to materialize some identified programs.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL HELD A MEETING WITH GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE JEDDAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a meeting with Mr. Ramez M. Al-Ghalib, the General Secretary of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Jeddah, on Thursday, 17 August 2023.

The meeting afforded the D-8 Secretary-General with opportunity to introduce the D-8 Organization to the Jeddah Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



D-8 AND AVRASYA GROUP SIGNED A MEMORANDUM ON BARTER TRADING SYSTEM



The D-8 Secretariat and AS Holding (A.Ş.Avrasya Barter), a Turkish business entity, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) at the D-8 Secretariat premise in Istanbul on 5 September 2023. The MoC will make trade by barter one of the mechanisms to promote trade and investment among the D-8 Member States.

The MoC was signed on behalf of the D-8 Organization by its Secretary General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, while Mr. Murat Doğanay, CEO of Avrasya, represented AS Holding.

The talks on this landmark cooperation initiative between the D-8 Organization and AS Holding on Barter Trade System began in 2019 with the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI). Consequently, at the D-8 Commission meeting held in 2022, it was agreed that the D-8 Barter Trading System was a welcome development, and the Commission directed its potential to be explored for the overall socio-economic development in the member states of the organization.

The Barter Trade System, apart from its potential to enhance intra-trade cooperation among countries of the D-8, could also help resolve problems associated with over-reliance by the member states on foreign exchange for settlement of international trade transactions.

The Barter Trade system also provides an alternative solution for settling trade balances and developing a sustainable economic program in the D-8 Member States. More importantly, it is expected the Barter Trade System would assist in boosting intra-trade relations between the D-8 Member States to the level of USD 100 billion in its first five years, while effective implementation shall be pursued in various sectoral areas such as construction, tourism, health, education, art, intellectual property, and service sector.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



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