



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



## This issue's highlight:

**D-8 SUPPORTS THE  
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO  
INDONESIA**

**D8 - UNCTAD JOINT CONFERENCE ON  
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR  
INVESTMENT**

**D-8 SG PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO  
NIGERIA**

**D-8 AND IOFS INKED A JOINT ACTION  
PLAN**

**AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED  
TRT WORLD FORUM 2023**

## THE 47th SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION WAS HELD IN DHAKA

Bangladesh, as the current D-8 Chair, hosted the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission, the organization's executive body, in Dhaka from 22 – 23 October 2023. The D-8 Commissioners and Heads of Delegation from the D-8 Member States and the D-8 Secretary-General attended the Session.



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**Dear Esteemed Readers,**

As 2023 ends, I am honored to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you who have staunchly supported the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), including by becoming a loyal reader of our Newsletter.

Your unending curiosity about the D-8 and your thirst for information about our organization has been a valuable source of energy for us to strive for the better, including maintaining this Newsletter. At the same time, your support keeps the light shining on our path to stronger collaboration and synergy that defines our dynamic organization.

However, in this fourth edition, and the last for 2023, you will find information on the collective efforts of our Member States in pursuing our shared objectives of economic cooperation. We are presenting to you, through the following pages, a journey through the fourth quarter of 2023. It is a period marked by noteworthy accomplishments and activities, collaborative initiatives, and strides towards sustainable development. Those achievements may be modest, but they signify that we are moving forward.

To provide you with a glimpse, you will find in-depth insights into the pivotal decisions of our statutory bodies, status updates on our projects, and the progress of our affiliated bodies. You will also find insights from our partners on collaboration with the D-8, for which I am incredibly grateful. We at the D-8 Secretariat strive to enrich our newsletter further by inviting contributors, experts, and dedicated individuals to share their expertise, making this edition a valuable resource for all stakeholders.

I am confident that we will achieve more in 2024 as we reflect on the modest accomplishments of 2023. We will endeavor to turn challenges into opportunities through innovation and collaboration. The D-8 is poised to navigate the complexities of the global landscape, leveraging the collective strength of its member states to create an environment conducive to growth, prosperity, and inclusivity.

In the coming year, we aspire to build upon the foundation laid in 2023, fostering deeper collaboration, enhancing economic resilience, and advancing sustainable development goals for our Member States. The challenges may be formidable, but together, as a united D-8 community, we are more than equal to the task.



In 2023, we also witnessed the injustice that is currently imposed on our brothers and sisters in Palestine. The D-8 has contributed, along with its mandate, to support the strive for freedom for all Palestinians. We will continue to do so for as long as possible.

Therefore, let us carry forward the spirit of unity and cooperation that defines the D-8 family. On behalf of our beloved Organization, I extend warm wishes for a more peaceful, just, and prosperous 2024.

To conclude, I want to thank you again for your continued support and until we meet again in a much better and brighter 2024.

Sincerely,

**Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam**  
Secretary-General

## STATUTORY MEETINGS

### THE 47TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION, DHAKA, BANGLADESH, 22-23 OCTOBER 2023



Bangladesh, as the current D-8 Chair, hosted the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission, the organization's executive body, in Dhaka from 22 – 23 October 2023. The D-8 Commissioners and Heads of Delegation from the D-8 Member States and the D-8 Secretary-General attended the Session.

During the meeting, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, presented the D-8 progress report since the previous 46th Session of the D-8 Commission held in Istanbul from 15 – 16 February 2023. He also presented new initiatives to elevate the D-8 organization to new heights. Subsequently, the Commission, the D-8's executive branch, discussed administrative and policy agendas for the Organization's activities.

Madame Wahida Ahmed, the Director General of the International Organization of the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is also the D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh, chaired the two-day meeting, while Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, the Foreign Secretary of the Bangladeshi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered opening remarks.



During the meeting, the Commission deliberated on issues related to the six key priority areas of cooperation of the D-8: Trade, Agriculture and Food Security, Industrial Cooperation, Energy, Transportation, and Tourism. In addition to that, they also discussed the possibility of mainstreaming Climate Change, Disaster Management, and economic empowerment of women in their member states.

The Commission also discussed administrative matters, including the programs and activities undertaken in the outgoing year. Among the decisions of the 47th Session was the recommendation for the D-8 to streamline the issue of climate change and women's economic empowerment in the agenda of the D8 Organization. It was also agreed that priority should be placed on the implementation of tangible programs and activities that would contribute to the further development of the Organization.



The Commissioners unanimously agreed to expedite action on implementing the bloc's D8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), signed in 2006—the practical implementation of the Agreement would help to drive other D-8 pillars of cooperation.

### **The D-8 Supports the Palestinian People**

During its 47th Session, the D-8 Commission also issued a statement of solidarity and support for the Palestinian people. The statement, titled: "Joint Communique of the D-8 Commission on the Situation in Palestine", called upon the D-8 Member States to, as a matter of emergency, provide humanitarian assistance, including collaborating with relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in The Near East (UNRWA).

The D-8 also expressed condolences to the Palestinian people for the massive loss of lives and sufferings that were caused by the Israeli military aggression. It further called for immediate cessation of hostilities and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, Palestine.

According to the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Joint Communique was issued within the framework of humanitarian support upon the overwhelming grave concern over the escalation of aggression against the people of Palestine.

"It is the least we can do to support the Palestinian people under these grave circumstances of blatant humanitarian law violations," Ambassador Imam added.



### The Joint Communique

We, the Commissioners of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Heads of Delegations from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Türkiye, gathering for our 47th Session in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 22-23 October 2023, express our profound condolences to the Palestinian people for the massive loss of lives and suffering that are caused by the ongoing besiege and bombardment of Gaza, Palestine. We pray that Allah, the Almighty, grants the Palestinians consolation and strength in their just struggle to establish a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine.

We are deeply concerned over the blatant violation of human rights and international humanitarian law by the Israeli military aggression in Palestine that caused immense sufferings for the Palestinians, mostly women and children. We call for immediate cessation of hostilities and stopping the crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, Palestine.

We call for opening a humanitarian corridor inside Gaza to ensure humanitarian assistance and the provision of basic human needs to all Palestinians.

We call upon all member states to provide humanitarian assistance immediately, including collaborating with relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

## BANGLADESH HOSTED “THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR DIPLOMATS FROM THE D-8 MEMBER STATES” IN DHAKA ON 15 – 21 OCTOBER 2023



Bangladesh organized a week-long Young Leadership Program for Diplomats from the Developing-8 Organization’s Member States at its Foreign Services Academy in Dhaka on 15-21 October 2023.

Diplomats from the D-8 Member States participated in the Program, which allowed them to gain more profound knowledge and broaden their network with fellow diplomats from the D-8 Member States.



After completing the program, the Certificate Award Ceremony was organized on 21 October 2023. Commissioners, Members of the Delegation of the D-8 Member States, and the D-8 Secretary-General, who were in Dhaka for the 47th Session of the D-8, attended the Ceremony.

In his remarks at the program's closing ceremony, the D-8 Secretary-General underscored the program's importance in harnessing stronger collaboration and mutual understanding among the D-8 Member States. He appreciated Member States who have organized similar programs and appealed to other Member States to take a cue.

## D-8 SG'S OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE MEMBER STATES

### OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDONESIA

To forge a more substantial and coherent coordination with the member states to achieve the D-8 objectives, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid an official visit to Indonesia from 18 to 24 November 2023. Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director for Administrative and Sectoral Affairs, and Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Affairs of the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 Secretary-General.

The visit afforded the D-8 SG valuable opportunities to present the status update on the organization to the relevant Ministries in Indonesia. The SG also secured a commitment from the line agencies to organize some activities for 2024 and 2025. The D-8 SG also used the opportunity to meet with his counterpart at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

The summary of the D-8 Secretary-General's official visit to Indonesia, in chronological order, is as follows:

#### **THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY OF INDONESIA**



The D-8 SG had a fruitful meeting with H.E. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno, the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, in Jakarta on 20 November 2023.

The D-8 SG commended Indonesia's stellar performance in tourism, particularly the quick revival of the sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. He, however, hoped Indonesia could share her experiences through collaboration with other member states.

The meeting also discussed tangible programs to be implemented in 2024 and subsequent years to advance tourism cooperation within the D-8 framework.

#### **THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND SMES OF INDONESIA**

The D-8 SG met with the senior management of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Indonesia, led by Mr. Arif Rahman Hakim, the Secretary General/Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, in Jakarta on 20 November 2023.

The meeting discussed programs and activities to strengthen collaboration in SME development within the D-8 framework. The two sides identified and agreed on programs to be organized in 2024, including revisiting the subsisting MoU on SME Governmental Bodies.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF INDONESIA

The D-8 SG met with H.E. Pahala Nugraha Mansury, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, in Jakarta on 20 November 2023. H.E. Ambassador Tri Tharyat, the Director General for Multilateral Cooperation/D-8 Commissioner of Indonesia, and officials from the D-8 desk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also in attendance.

The D-8 SG commended Indonesia's support in advancing the sectoral cooperation of his organization.



The two dignitaries discussed the way forward for the D-8 Organization, including the need to focus on activities with tangible results, such as the immediate implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) to strengthen the bloc's intra-trade relations.

The D8-SG also commended Indonesia's relentless support for the State of Palestine.

## THE D-8 SG ATTENDED A WORKING DINNER HOSTED BY D-8 COMMISSIONER OF INDONESIA

The D-8 SG attended an informal working dinner, which H.E. Ambassador Tri Tharyat, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the D-8 Commissioner of Indonesia, hosted in Jakarta on 20 November 2023.

Ms. Penny D. Herasati, Director of the International Organization of Developing Countries International Organizations, Mr. Ary Aprianto, Coordinator for OIC and D-8, and Mr. Pragusdinianto Sumantri, Desk Officer for D-8, were in attendance.



While savoring Indonesia's cuisine, the two dignitaries and their respective entourage exchanged views on the way forward for the D-8 Organization. The D-8 SG reiterated his call for Indonesia's continued support for the work of the D-8 to achieve the goals and objectives set forth by its founding Fathers in 1997.

## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OF INDONESIA



The D-8 SG met with the senior management of the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia, led by Mr. Putu Juli Ardika, Director General for Agro Industry/Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, in Jakarta on 21 November 2023. Other senior officials from the Ministry of Industry were also in attendance.

The meeting discussed the rejuvenation of the D-8 industrial cooperation, which was halted during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two sides also agreed to revisit the pending hosting by Indonesia of the 7th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Cooperation as soon as possible. It was also decided to streamline industrial cooperation to focus on areas that can produce tangible results.

## THE D-8 SG MET THE VICE MINISTER FOR TRADE OF INDONESIA

The D-8 SG met with H.E. Dr. Jerry Sambuaga, the Vice Minister for Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, in Jakarta on 21 November 2023. Officers responsible for the D-8 PTA from the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia were also in attendance.

The two dignitaries discussed the way forward for implementing the D-8 PTA. The D-8 Secretary-General noted Indonesia's readiness to implement the PTA, which the latter had formally notified the Secretariat. The meeting also identified programs to be organized to support better implementation of the D-8 PTA, particularly capacity-building programs to be organized in 2024 and 2025.



## D-8 SG MET WITH THE VICE CHAIRWOMAN OF KADIN OF INDONESIA



The D-8 SG met with Ms. Shinta W. Kamdani, the Vice Chairwoman of the Indonesia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), where both held a productive meeting in Jakarta on 22 November 2023. Relevant officials of the KADIN participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed innovative ways to reinvigorate partnerships among the business entities in the D-8 under the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the Member States. The two sides shared a common view that the private sector must be enlightened about the D-8 PTA and its benefits. They both agreed to conduct joint activities to raise awareness of the private sector in Indonesia about the PTA.

Several activities were identified that could be organized in collaboration among the Chambers, through the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) and the D-8 Secretariat starting from next year.

## D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS OF INDONESIA

The D-8 SG met with H.E. Dito Airotedjo, the Minister for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia, in Jakarta on 22 November 2023. The senior management of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia was present at the meeting.

The D-8 SG apprised the Minister about the D-8 efforts to mainstream youth empowerment in achieving its objectives, which the Minister graciously supported.



The D-8 Sec. Gen. also mulled the idea of organizing an annual D-8 Sports Competition among member countries, which Indonesia can host, such as a D-8 badminton tournament in 2024. The Minister welcomed the idea and suggested that his office and the D-8 Secretariat kick-start the preparation in earnest.

## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE HEAD OF THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF INDONESIA

The D-8 SG met with the management of the Centre of Education and Training (Pusdiklat) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, led by H.E. Ambassador Mohammad K. Koba, in Jakarta on 22 November 2023. The Director for Senior Diplomatic Training, the Director for Mid-Career Diplomatic Training, and the Coordinator for Institutional Cooperation were also in attendance.

The Meeting explored cooperation on diplomatic training among the D-8 Member States, complemented by joint research, regular consultation among diplomatic training institutions, and exchange of experiences.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of Indonesia organizing diplomatic training for diplomats from the D-8 Member States. The modalities for organizing the training will be determined at a later date.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OF INDONESIA



The D-8 SG met the senior management of the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, led by Mr. Novie Riyanto R, the Secretary-General/Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, in Jakarta on 23 November 2023.

The two sides discussed programs in the transportation sector to be implemented starting in 2024. However, in their discussion, particular emphasis was given to civil aviation and maritime interconnectivity.

Indonesia is currently chairing the Task Force on Commercial Issues on Civil Aviation and will organize a follow-up activity for the 12th D-8 Directors-General of Civil Aviation meeting, which was held in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2022. The Ministry of Transportation of Indonesia also indicated its readiness to host the meeting on maritime connectivity among the D-8 Member States at a date to be determined.

## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN FOR POLITICAL SECURITY COMMUNITY

Concluding his official visit to Indonesia, the D-8 SG met with H.E. Ambassador Michael Tene, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), for ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta on 23 November 2023.

The D-8 Secretary-General and ASEAN Deputy SG exchanged views on their respective organizations' activities and priority areas, such as trade, agriculture, ICT, energy, and tourism. They also shared the best practices for managing external relations, including partnerships with other entities and organizations.

The meeting agreed to strengthen institutional cooperation through regular discussion via video conferencing.



## OFFICIAL VISIT TO NIGERIA

To further the Secretariat's engagement with Member States, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 SG, paid an official visit to Nigeria from 18 to 24 December 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations of the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG for the visit.

The official visit provided the D-8 SG with opportunities to introduce progress updates of the D-8 to the new Administration in Nigeria, especially relevant Ministers and high-ranking government officials. The D-8 SG also engaged with the media industry in Nigeria to bolster the Organization's efforts to increase its visibility in member states.

The summary of the D-8 SG visit to Nigeria, in chronological order, is as follows:

### THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE CEO OF NIPC

The D-8 SG started his official visit to Nigeria by meeting with Ms. Aisha Rimi, the Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), in Abuja on 18 December 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed investment promotion in the member states, including follow-up programs of the 8th World Investment Forum and the D-8 and UNCTAD collaboration on the reform of international investment agreements held in Abu Dhabi from 16 – 20 October 2023.



The two sides agreed to jointly organize activities in 2024, including the possibility of holding a Conference of the D-8 investment promotion agencies in Nigeria in 2024. The NIPC also expressed readiness to host incoming business/trade missions from other D-8 Member States in 2024.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SMEDAN

In continuation of his official engagement in Abuja during the visit, the D-8 SG met with Mr. Charles O. Odi, the Director General/CEO of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) in Abuja, on 18 December 2023.

The two dignitaries, accompanied by their respective delegations, discussed collaboration to support and promote the development of the SME sector in the D-8 Member States. It was agreed that the partnership is crucial, considering that SMEs are the backbone of the economies of the D-8 Member States. The two sides explored potential activities in 2024, including launching the proposed D-8 Center for Small and Medium Enterprises (D-8 SME Center) in Abuja.



The D-8 SG also attended the commissioning of the new Corporate Headquarters of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) in Abuja on Wednesday, 20 December 2023.

The new premises of SMEDAN, commissioned by H.E. Kashim Shettima, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, are equipped with modern facilities to support SME development, such as garment and furniture-making machinery.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE NIGERIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The D-8 SG met with H.E. Ambassador Adamu Ibrahim Lamuwa, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Abuja on 18 December 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 22-23 October 2023. The meeting also cemented Nigeria's support for advancing collaboration in various D-8 priority areas, particularly on energy, development of SMEs, youth, science, technology, and innovation.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NBET



The D-8 SG met with Dr. Nnaemeka Ewelukwa, the Managing Director of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading, Plc. (NBET), in Abuja on 19 December 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed how to materialize the proposed D-8 Energy Forum to be hosted in Nigeria in 2024. Given the importance of energy for economic development, they agreed to pursue vigorously the hosting of the proposed Energy Forum in Nigeria by engaging robustly with the relevant stakeholders. They also discussed contemporary energy issues, particularly renewable energy.

Earlier, the D-8 SG also had a brief meeting with Mr. James Sule, OON, NPOM, and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation of Nigeria to discuss collaboration on technological advancement within the D-8 framework.

## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY OF NIGERIA

The D-8 SG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Senator Abubakar Kyari, the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Abuja on 20 December 2023.

The Ministry's senior management also attended the meeting, which discussed tangible programs to strengthen D-8 agricultural cooperation. The meeting also discussed the forthcoming 8th Session of the D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security, which Nigeria proposed to host in 2024.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF CHANNELS TV OF NIGERIA



The D-8 SG met with the management of the Channels TV at the Abuja Office. He was received by Mr. Chamberlain Usuh, who is the Station Manager, on Thursday, 21 December 2023.

The two sides discussed mutually beneficial collaboration, mainly to increase the visibility of the D-8 Organization in Nigeria.

During the visit, the D-8 Secretary-General granted an interview to Channels TV session, where he presented further clarification about the vision and mission of the D-8 Organization. The D-8 SG also spoke about the vast potential of his organization's various activities and collaborations to benefit all its stakeholders in member states, including Nigeria.

## THE D-8 SG PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT OF NIGERIA

The D-8 SG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Doris Nkiruka Uzoka-Anite MD, CFA, the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abuja on 21 December 2023.

The D-8 Secretary-General presented a status update of the D-8 Organization in pursuing its economic objectives, including the impending implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement D-8 PTA. The D8 SG underscored the importance of the D8 Trade Ministers Meeting and sought the support of the Minister to attend the subsequent Trade Ministers Meeting when convened by Bangladesh.



The meeting also discussed Nigeria's readiness to complete the required internal procedures to fully implement the D-8 PTA as soon as possible.

The two dignitaries also discussed collaborative programs for SME development.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE MINISTER OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

The D-8 SG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, the Honorable Minister of Youth Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Abuja on 21 December 2023.

The two dignitaries shared common views on the need to mainstream youth development issues, focusing on entrepreneurship, to support economic activities to attain the D-8 economic objectives. The D-8 SG also sought support from the Honorable Minister for the proposed D-8 Youth Council, which will be established in 2024, including the Minister's attendance at the 1st Meeting of the D8 Youth Ministers, which is expected to be held in Bangladesh in 2024.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE NIGERIAN TELEVISION AUTHORITY (NTA)



The D-8 SG met with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), led by the NTA Director-General, Mr. Salihu Abdulhamid Dembos, in Abuja on Thursday, 21 December 2023.

The two sides discussed the role of the media, particularly the NTA, in promoting the visibility of the D-8 for the benefit of all stakeholders in Member States. During the visit, cooperation among broadcasting stations in the D-8 Member States was also discussed.

## D-8 SG MET WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF LOTUS BANK OF NIGERIA

The D-8 SG held a meeting with the senior management of LOTUS Bank, led by Ms. Kafilat Araoye, the Managing Director of the LOTUS Bank, in Lagos, on 22 December 2023.

The two sides discussed potential collaboration in the financial sector that would support the D-8 economic cooperation. The D-8 SG also presented several D-8 initiatives in the financial sector that are in the pipeline. The two sides also explored the possibility of hosting joint activities in 2024 to bolster their collaboration.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE TVC COMMUNICATIONS OF NIGERIA



The D-8 SG met with officials of TVC Communications in Lagos on 22 December 2023. The meeting discussed the cooperation to elevate the visibility of the D-8 organization through the TVC's broadcast services.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of TVC Communications covering some D-8 activities, including submitting audio-visual tapes for airing on TVC news. While at the TVC Communications' headquarters, the D-8 SG granted an interview to the TVC Reporter, where he explained his goals and targets as the Chief Scribe of the D-8 Organization.

## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF NACCIMA

The D-8 SG met with Chief Dele Kelvin Oye, Esq, the National President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA), and Mr. Sola Obadimu, the NACCIMA Director General, in Lagos on 22 December 2023.

The meeting was held over dinner and hosted by Chief Oye to discuss how to strengthen the role of the private sector, especially trade, in achieving the D-8's objectives.

The two sides also discussed programs to be organized in 2024, in which NACCIMA will play a significant role, including the proposed D-8 energy forum, the support for SME development, and strengthening the relationship between NACCIMA and the D-8 envoys resident in Nigeria.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA



The D-8 SG met with Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, on Wednesday, 27 Dec. The two dignitaries discussed collaboration in the education sector.

The meeting explored the possibility for the University of Ilorin to join the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI). The Vice-Chancellor also expressed his readiness to host the next meeting of the D-8 NPRI. The meeting also discussed the proposed student and staff exchange and joint research between University of Ilorin and other universities in the D8 Member States.

## SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

### D-8 AND IOFS INKED JOINT ACTION PLAN ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), attended the 2nd High-Level Forum on Food Security organized by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in cooperation with the Government of the State of Qatar in Doha on 1-3 October 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations of the Organization's Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG.

At the event, the D-8 and the IOFS signed a 'Joint Action Plan' to enhance collaboration in agriculture and food security, which took place on Sunday, 1 October 2023, on the margins of the 2nd High-Level Forum on Food Security of the IOFS.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam represented the D-8 Organization during the signing ceremony, while Dr. Masoud Al-Marri, Chairman of the Executive Board of IOFS, signed on behalf of the IOFS.

The Joint Action Plan is an implementation mechanism of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Institutional Cooperation, signed between the two Organizations in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 17 March 2023. It covers 12 specific agricultural and food security programs, which will be implemented from 2024 -2026.



In his brief remarks during the signing ceremony, the D-8 SG noted that the MoU and the Joint Action Plan would provide a solid foundation for more robust and tangible collaboration between the D-8 and IOFS. He said that continuing collaboration was also required in order to address the challenges of deficiency in agricultural production and food security in D-8 member countries.

In addition to signing the Joint Action Plan, the D-8 SG also delivered an opening remark at the Sub-Forum on the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Agricultural Development and Food Security, as part of the 2nd High-Level Forum on Food Security, organized by the IOFS in Doha, Qatar, on 1 October 2023.

The IOFS is a specialized institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), specifically tasked to enhance agriculture and food security sectors within the OIC. The IOFS organized the 2nd High-Level Forum on Food Security and the 6th Session of its General Assembly, back-to-back with the 9th OIC Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Food Security from 1 - 3 October 2023.

The D-8 SG attended the IOFS and OIC events upon the invitation from the respective organizations.

## D-8 ACTIVITIES AT THE UNCTAD'S 8TH WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

On the invitation of H.E. Ms. Rebecca Grynsban, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated at the 8th World Investment Forum (WIF) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 16 – 23 October 2023. He was accompanied by the duo of Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Md. Biplob Tarafder, Programme Officer of the D-8 Secretariat,

At the 8th WIF, the D-8 SG undertook the following activities:

### D-8 AND UNCTAD JOINT CONFERENCE ON GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENT



The D-8 and UNCTAD co-organized the Joint Conference on the Guiding Principles for Investment as part of the 8th WIF in Abu Dhabi on 16 October 2023.

Experts from the D-8 Member States provided updates on their respective countries' efforts to modernize and align their investment policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. One of the notable outcomes of the session was the agreement to institutionalize discussion on the modernization of the promotion of investments in the D-8 member states.

### THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRENA



The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Francesco La Camera, the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), on the margins of the 8th WIF in Abu Dhabi on 17 October 2023.

They discussed potential collaboration between the D-8 and IRENA in supporting renewable energy development and transition in the D-8 Member States.

## D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL SPOKE AT THE INVESTMENT MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE IN ABU DHABI



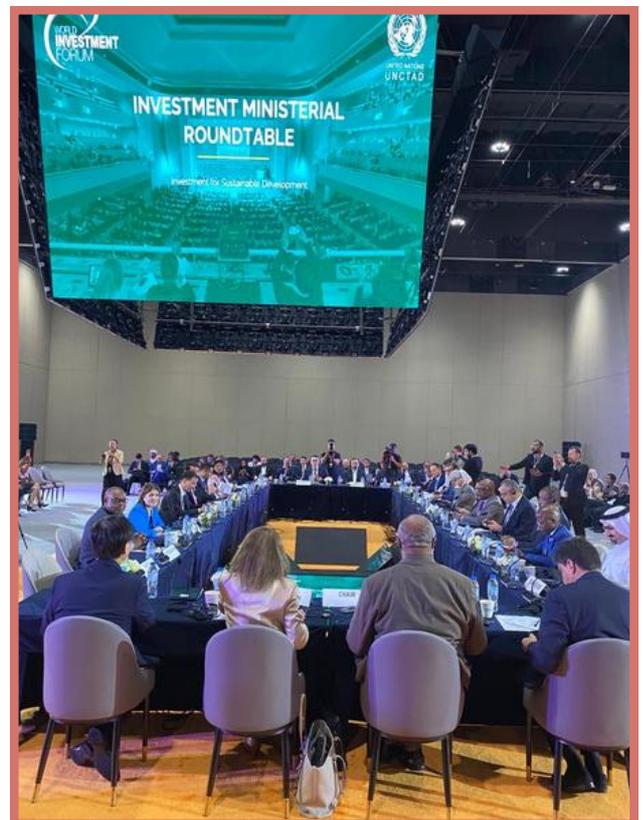
As part of his active participation in the 8th World Investment Forum, Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated as a speaker in the Investment Ministerial Roundtable in Abu Dhabi on 20 October 2023. H.E. Manoa Seru Kamikamica, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, the Republic of Fiji, and Ms. Rebecca Grynspann, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, co-chaired the Roundtable.

The D-8 Secretary-General highlighted that international organizations and donors must extend their technical and financial support to improve the economy of developing countries' capacity to foster investment for sustainable development.

He also underlined that there must be flexibility in applying standards and measures for developing countries in investment. Trade discrimination against developing countries, in many of its facades, must be minimized. The same ideals apply to our fight against climate change and safeguarding biodiversity.

Furthermore, the D-8 Secretary-General also underscored the importance of ensuring every country's right to develop and grow. We must provide an equitable and inclusive global architecture to aid economic development.

He concluded with a call that efforts to reform the international investment agreements must take cognizance of the interests of the global south. This can be achieved by prioritizing the development of next-generation investment policies.



## THE D-8 SG VISITED THE AMBASSADOR OF NIGERIA TO UAE IN ABU DHABI

The D-8 SG paid a courtesy call on H.E Mohammed Dansanta Rimi, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abu Dhabi, on the margins of the 8th World Investment Forum organized by UNCTAD in Abu Dhabi on 17 October 2023.

The D-8 SG presented an update on the activities of the D-8 organization to his counterpart, while Ambassador Rimi gave his views on how to strengthen collaboration in the D-8 key priority areas, particularly in agriculture, food security, trade, and investment.



## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WAIPA



The D-8 SG met with the Executive Director of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), Mr. Ismail Ersahin, on the margins of the 8th World Investment Forum 2023 in Abu Dhabi on 18 October 2023.

The two dignitaries discussed collaboration between the D-8 and WAIPA in the areas of investment promotion. They agreed to exchange information on each other's activities for mutual benefit.

## D-8 SG MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE AIM GLOBAL FOUNDATION

The D-8 SG met with Mr. Dawood El Shezawi, the President of the AIM Global Foundation, on the margins of the 8th World Investment Forum 2023 of UNCTAD in Abu Dhabi on 18 October 2023.

The meeting discussed collaboration between the D-8 and the AIM Congress, particularly in promoting the programs and activities of the two organizations. Mr. El Shezawi used the opportunity to invite the D-8SG to participate in the AIM Congress in Abu Dhabi in May 2024.



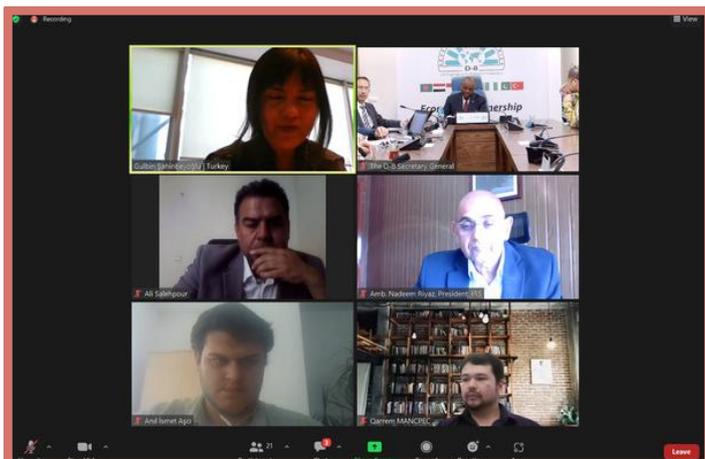
## THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE CEO OF NIPC



The D-8 SG met with Ms. Aisha Rimi, the CEO of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), on the margins of the 8th WIF2023 of UNCTAD in Abu Dhabi on 23 October 2023.

They discussed the need to accelerate the promotion of investments in D8 countries, including the possibility of establishing an annual D-8 Investment Forum.

## D-8 THINK TANKS HELD WEBINAR ON STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE D-8'S EFFECTIVENESS



The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and the Institute for Regional Studies (IRS), an Islamabad-based think tank, organized a joint webinar with the theme: 'How Can D-8 Be Made More Effective?' The webinar, held virtually on 26 October 2023. It had participants from relevant research institutions and organizations from Member States in attendance.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary General, stated that organizing such a webinar, in partnership with institutions such as the IRS, could make significant contributions to improve the effectiveness of the workings at the D-8 Secretariat, thus achieving the goals and objectives for which the organization was established.

During the webinar, representatives of relevant institutions from the D-8 member countries, who spoke, underscored the significant role of the organization in harnessing its potential for the economic development and well-being of its citizens. They unanimously agreed on the importance of regularly holding such meetings to contribute to this process. The participants also expressed hope to convene the second meeting in the near future.



## AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary General, attended the commemorative program to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the modern Republic of Türkiye, which was organized by the Governor of Istanbul on 28 October 2023.

## THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SMIIC



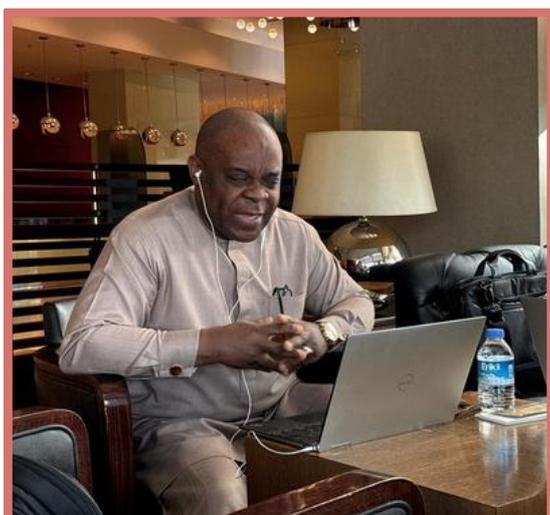
Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, delivered a keynote address at the 18th General Assembly of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in Makkah al-Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia, on 1 November 2023.

The D-8 SG underscored the importance of standardization and metrology accuracy to support his organization's key priority areas, particularly trade. He, therefore, harped on the need to effectively implement the MoU between the D- 8 and SMIIC, which was signed earlier this year.

The D-8 SG attended the SMIIC General Assembly, hosted by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), upon the invitation from H.E. İhsan ÖVÜT, the Secretary-General of the SMIIC. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, accompanied the D-8 SG to the SMIIC's Assembly.



## THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERED A STATEMENT AT THE WORKSHOP ON SMART AGRICULTURE ORGANIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF TÜRKIYE



Strengthened cooperation in the agricultural sector and focusing on climate-smart agriculture is crucial in ensuring food security and self-sufficiency amidst global uncertainty arising from food shortage and the threat of climate change. These issues dominated the Virtual Workshop on “Climate Smart Agriculture Techniques and Projects, Sharing Experience by Türkiye”, jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye and the D-8 Secretariat on 15 November 2023.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, delivered opening remarks at the Workshop, followed by a lively and interactive discussion encompassing the need to strengthen agricultural cooperation within the D-8.

The Workshop, attended by representatives from all D-8 Member States, discussed developing innovative agricultural practices to tackle the threat of climate change. Experiences and success stories were exchanged among the participants, led by Türkiye. The workshop agreed to explore tangible activities, including a workshop on climate-smart agriculture in a physical format.

## AMBASSADOR IMAM PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE TRADE MINISTER OF TÜRKIYE



The Secretary-General of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, held a high-level discussion with the Minister of Trade of Türkiye, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, in the Minister's office in Ankara, the Capital of Türkiye, on 15 November 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Mr. M. Bilal Khan, Executive Assistant at the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG.

Mr. Murat Doğanay, CEO of A.S. Holding and President of ASAM, and Mr. Sadik Solak from A.S. Holding, the principal partners in developing the D-8 Barter Trading System, were also present during the meeting.

During their discussion, the Secretary-General used the opportunity to update the Turkish Minister on the progress so far made on the much-anticipated take-off of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), which, according to him, many Member States of his Organization have ratified the Agreement.



Speaking further, Ambassador Imam, while briefing his host, underscored the significance of early implementation of the D-8 PTA to the overall economic development of the alliance Group of Nations, more so when the vexed issue of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA has been concluded, successfully.

In response to the evolving global trade landscape and the need for the D-8 Organization to keep up with the trends, both the D-8 SG and his host, Prof. Ömer Bolat, addressed the imperative of establishing a D-8 E-commerce platform and a Barter Trading System.

The Minister of Trade of Türkiye, Prof. Ömer Bolat, also commended Secretary General Imam for his visionary leadership and commitment to advancing the economic agenda of the D-8 Organization. He expressed the full support of his Ministry in the implementation of the various initiatives aimed at enhancing the economic cooperation of the D-8 member states.

## THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF TÜRKIYE



Sequel to the decision of the 47th Session of the D8 Commission to include women's economic empowerment on the agenda of the D8, the D8 SG, Ambassador Isiaka Imam, paid a courtesy call on the Her Excellency Madame Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, the Minister of Family and Social Services of Türkiye in Ankara on 16 November 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Mr. M. Bilal Khan, Executive Assistant of the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG to the meeting.

During the meeting, the D8 SG secured crucial support from the Turkish government to advance women's economic empowerment. The two dignitaries discussed the D-8's effort to mainstream women's economic empowerment in the D-8. Ambassador Imam told the Minister that women's empowerment was crucial in the D-8 member states since more than half of the population is women.



To materialize the D-8 collective agenda, Ambassador Imam also proposed the hosting of the first D-8 women's economic empowerment summit and exhibition in Türkiye in the second quarter of 2024.

Minister Göktaş welcomed the D-8 group's efforts to mainstream women's economic empowerment in the D-8's development agenda. Minister Göktaş also welcomed the initiative to host the D-8 Women Economic Empowerment Summit and Exhibition in 2024. The First D-8 Women Economic Empowerment Summit and Exhibition will attract government officials, business leaders, key stakeholders in women's organizations, and NGOs from across member states.

## **MEETING WITH THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO TÜRKIYE**

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 SG, met with H.E. Mohammad Hassan Habibollah Zadeh, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Türkiye in Ankara on 16 November 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Mr. M. Bilal Khan, Executive Assistant of the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG to the meeting.

The D-8 SG commenced the meeting by congratulating the Ambassador on his appointment. Consequently, the D-8 SG briefed the Iranian Ambassador on the status update of the D-8 Organization, including trade cooperation and progress on the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

The two dignitaries concurred on strengthening cooperation among the D-8 member states and prioritizing the implementation of projects and initiatives, particularly those that could enhance collaboration in intra-trade relations within the D-8 community.

The D-8 SG also apprised the Iranian Ambassador on the upcoming 27th Anniversary of the D-8 in Istanbul on 15 June 2024. The D-8 SG further informed his host that the Secretariat intends to mark the occasion by organizing a Culture and Food Festival in Istanbul. He said that the Secretariat would write formally to solicit the support of all D8 Missions in Türkiye, including the Embassy of Iran, for the successful organization of the 27th anniversary celebration.

## **THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE D-8 COMMISSIONER OF TÜRKIYE**

Ambassador Esen Altug, the Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs/D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye, hosted a working luncheon for the D-8 SG and his delegation in Ankara on 16 November 2023. During the luncheon, the two dignitaries discussed various topics, including issues connected to the just concluded 47th Session of the D-8 Commission, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 22-23 October 2023.

The D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye commended the D-8 SG for his effective leadership at the D-8 Secretariat and assured him of Türkiye's full support in enhancing cooperation among the D-8 member states. The D-8 SG expressed gratitude to the D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye and her team for facilitating and organizing his visit to Ankara to meet with high-ranking government functionaries. He said that the meeting with the Minister of Trade was successful and that issues that would enhance trade and economic cooperation in the D8 were discussed.

The D-8 SG also informed his host of the organization's 27th anniversary, which is scheduled for 15 June 2024. He said the Secretariat would organize cultural and culinary events in Istanbul to mark the anniversary.

## MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF YUNUS EMRE INSTITUTE



The D-8 SG met with Prof. Dr. Şeref ATEŞ, the President of the Yunus Emre Institute in Ankara, on 16 November 2023.

The SG expressed appreciation to the institute for granting him the audience. He commended the institute for its laudable activities, particularly in cultural promotion and other various initiatives in the D-8 member states.

On his part, the Yunus Emre Institute President appreciated the D-8 SG for the visit. He briefed the D-8 SG on the institute's activities, adding that the organization's primary mandate was to promote the arts and culture of the Republic of Türkiye worldwide, stressing that the institute has collaborated with most member states of the D8. He expressed interest in working closely with the D-8 Secretariat to promote tourism through cultural activities across the member states.

In his response, the D-8 SG commended Dr. ATEŞ for his outstanding leadership at the Yunus Emre Institute. He said that tourism is one of the key priority areas of the D8 and underscored the importance of collaboration between the D-8 Secretariat and the institute in advancing tourism-related initiatives across the D8 countries.

Speaking further, the D-8 SG informed his host that the 27th anniversary of the D8 Organization would come up in June 2024, adding that the D8 Secretariat intends to mark the occasion by organizing a cultural event in Istanbul. He proposed that the Institute should partner with the D8 Secretariat to jointly organize the event in Istanbul. Dr. ATEŞ welcomed the proposal of the D-8 SG and pledged his full support for the D-8 cultural Expo.

## THE D-8 SG PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD HALAL SUMMIT AND EXPO IN ISTANBUL



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the World Halal Summit and Expo in Istanbul on 25 November 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Ms. Aynur Tiryaki, Executive Secretary at the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG to the Expo.

The D-8 SG delivered remarks at the Summit, highlighting the vast potential of the halal industry that can and must be tapped into by both the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the D-8 Organization. He suggested that the two organizations take the lead in developing the global halal industry and making 'halal' a global brand.

The Halal Summit & Expo are organized by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. The D-8 and SMIIC have a cooperation MoU, which also covers the development of the halal industry.

After the Ceremony, the D-8 SG toured the 2023 Halal Expo and the D-8 Member States' pavilions. He congratulated the D-8 delegations from the Member States for participating in the 2023 Halal Expo.



## D-8 SECRETARIAT ATTENDED THE STRATCOM INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION SUMMIT 2023 IN ISTANBUL



The Secretariat of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), represented by Mr. Ilham Uludağ, Media and Protocol Assistant, and Ms. Zahra Setarah, Executive Assistant II, attended the 2023 International Strategic Communication (Stratcom) Summit in Istanbul from 24-25 November 2023.

The Stratcom Summit is a platform for strategic communication organized by the Directorate of Communication of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye to exchange views and develop a strategy for effective communication on policy and strategic matters.

The participation at the Stratcom Summit 2023 has enabled the D-8 Secretariat to broaden its network with other participants. The D-8 Secretariat also gained information and updates on the need to develop an appropriate strategic communication plan to ensure the spread of information and broaden the scope and the reach of the information provided by organizations, including the D-8 Secretariat.

## THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO



Upon the invitation from Mr. Gerd Müller, the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 20th General Conference of UNIDO in Vienna from 27 November - 1 December 2023. Mr. Punjul Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Mr. Md. Biplob Tarafder, Programme Officer at the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG to the event.

The D-8 Secretary-General noted the statement made during the opening session, particularly on the need to bolster industrial cooperation to ensure food security and end hunger, as part of the global endeavor to expedite UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

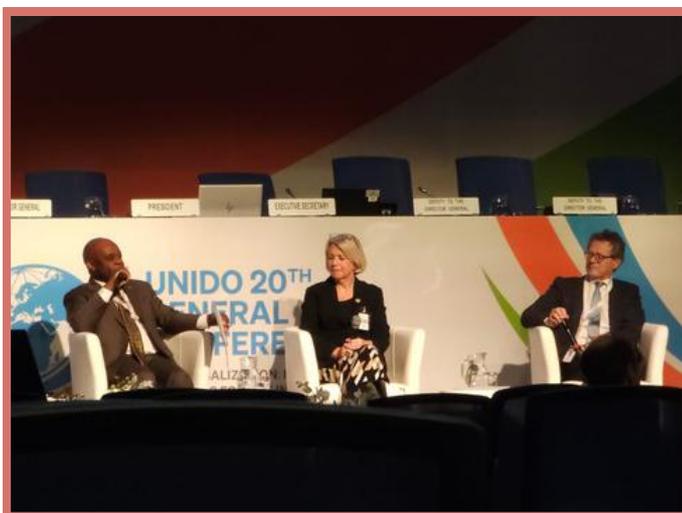
As part of his participation at the General Conference of UNIDO, the D-8 SG presented his views as a member of the High-Level Panel on Ending Hunger.

In the panel that Ms. Gillian Joseph moderated, the D-8 SG underlined the importance of the transfer of technology to bolster industrial cooperation, particularly in the agriculture sector. He emphasized UNIDO's crucial role in harnessing global resources to support the efforts of Ending Hunger to achieve the UN SDGs 2030.



The D-8 SG informed his audience on the various initiatives of his organization to bolster agricultural cooperation, including the establishment of the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS), the D-8 Technology Transfer Award, and other collaborations with international organizations.

Along with D-8 SG on the panel were Ms. Beverley Postma, Executive Director of Grow Asia, Mr. Gerardo Pataconi, Head of Operation of the International Coffee Organization, and Ms. Elfi Klumpp, Head of Partnership Development of Festo Didactic SE.



## D-8 SG AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED 39TH SESSION OF COMCEC



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 39th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) Ministerial Session in Istanbul on 04 December 2023. The D-8 SG participated in the Session upon the invitation from the Government of Türkiye. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations at the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG to the event.

The D-8 Secretary-General subscribed to the statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, delivered at the opening session, where he expressed solidarity for Palestine and called on COMCEC to continue its support for the Palestinians.

The D-8 SG's participation in the 39th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting was a valuable opportunity to broaden the D-8 network to support its economic cooperation.

The COMCEC is a specialized organ of the OIC, mandated to strengthen the OIC's trade performance. COMCEC also organizes a series of working group meetings and technical collaborations.

## THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED TRT WORLD FORUM 2023

The Secretariat of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), represented by Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, its Secretary-General, attended the TRT World Forum 2023 in Istanbul from 8-9 December 2023. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy and External Relations, and Mr. Ilham Uludağ, Media and Protocol Assistant, accompanied the D-8 SG to the global event.



The Forum was held under the theme: "Thriving Together: Responsibilities, Actions and Solutions". The event was an opportunity for academics, journalists, politicians, and members of civil society groups to meet and discuss the challenges facing the global community and contribute their quota to the advancement of the cause of peace, security, and prosperity worldwide.

The D-8 team noted and subscribed to the statement delivered by His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at the Forum's opening session.

The TRT World Forum 2023 offered representatives of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation a unique and invaluable opportunity to engage with global leaders, academics, journalists, politicians, and members of civil society organizations.

TRT, or the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation, is the national public broadcaster of Türkiye, which was founded in 1964. The TRT organized its annual TRT World Forum to assess significant events that have taken place globally. Several leaders and prominent global figures frequently participated in the Forum.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES

### **D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FORGES ACADEMIC ALLIANCES AND HOSTS HIGH-PROFILE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**



In an era where education stands as the cornerstone of progress and development, D-8 International University is not merely an institution. It is a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change. The D-8 International University undertook a task, transcending geographical boundaries and institutional constraints to redefine the landscape of global education. The D-8 International University organized a defining event in Hamedan, Iran, on 8 – 9 October 2023. The event facilitated collaboration on academic excellence and ensuring the rights to education for all students across its member states.

At the heart of this transformative journey was the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Malaysian universities on 8 October 2023. The D-8 International University signed MoUs with the Universiti Malaya, the Universiti Putra Malaysia, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, the Universiti Teknologi MARA, and the Universiti of Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah.

The signing marks a collaborative effort towards academic brilliance and cultural exchange. This step expanded academic horizons and created a more inclusive educational environment. These MoUs signify a shared commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence, research collaboration, and the enrichment of cultural ties. The agreements forged and discussions held signify a collective effort towards global academic collaboration and the advancement of educational standards. The signed MoUs with Malaysian universities further establish D-8 International University as a hub for international academic partnerships, fostering a spirit of cooperation that transcends borders.

The second monumental event was the Third Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the D-8 International University in Hamedan on 9 October 2023. The Meeting aimed at playing a significant role in academic endeavors and advancing the cause of educational equality. The distinguished gathering of ministers, chairpersons, and representatives from member state countries was a valuable collective brainstorming session aimed at strategizing the elevation of educational standards and fostering an environment where every student from all walks of life could access education to contribute to the betterment of the world. The Meeting also witnessed scholarly exchanges and the establishment of international research through the D-8 Member States.



Dignitaries and high-ranking officials from the D-8 Member States attended the Meeting, including H.E. Prof. Mohammad Ali ZolfiGol, Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran and Chairman of D-8 International University Board of Trustees, H.E. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Higher Education Malaysia, H.E. Prof. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

While several dignitaries participated online, including H.E. Prof. Tahir Mamman, Minister of Education, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister of Education, Bangladesh, and Directors representing the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of Indonesia.

The collective presence of these esteemed individuals underscored the global significance of D-8 International University and its commitment to shaping the future of education.

The D-8 Secretary-General underscored the imperative for Member States to accredit the D-8 International University, implement scholarship programs, and introduce sandwich programs. Additionally, he delineated the immediate objectives, emphasizing the necessity to pool resources for impactful research initiatives, host conferences, and position the university as a prominent contributor to human resources development and innovation.

The D-8 Secretary General conveyed confidence in the pivotal role of the D-8 University and expressed optimism about overcoming challenges through shared commitment. He extended thanks to Member States for their unwavering dedication, anticipating productive discussions and decisions at the upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting. He envisioned a collaborative future for the D-8 International University, emphasizing its potential to foster innovation and contribute significantly to the economic cooperation goals of the organization.

Chancellor of D-8 International University Prof. Abbas Afkhami welcomed attendees to the third D-8 International University Board of Trustees Meeting, emphasizing the institution's role in fostering scientific cooperation. He reported on the outcomes of the fourth Focal Points Meeting, highlighting key recommendations for accreditation, tuition reduction, and the nomination of focal points and scholarships. The Chancellor acknowledged challenges in student enrollment due to the university's reputation and urged member states to support and nominate students. He emphasized the university's potential for scientific and cultural advancement. Focal Points meetings outcomes were also approved at the Board of Trustees meeting. Prof. Afkhami concluded with gratitude for the collaborative efforts of D-8 member states and institutions.



Leaders from various D-8 member countries addressed the 3rd BoT of D-8 International University, emphasizing collaboration and support for the institution.

Minister Prof. Zolfigol called for swift accreditation, member states' contributions, and international collaboration, expressing Iran's commitment through resource allocation and scholarships. Minister Dr. Dipu Moni highlighted Bangladesh's commitment to global education, urging swift accreditation and cautioning against significant fee increases. Indonesia, represented by Yulita Priyoningsih, commended the international university's establishment, contributing Universitas Brawijaya and Syiah Kuala University, for global collaboration. Minister Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin proposed a focus on water-related issues, a global research platform, and a higher education leadership training program. Prof. Tahir Mamman, Nigeria's Minister of Education, expressed support for D-8 International University, emphasizing economic and educational cooperation. Prof. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission, emphasized the need for collaboration in addressing global challenges and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering faculty and student exchange programs. Dr. Hossien Rezvan, Chancellor of Bu-Ali Sina University, welcomed attendees, urging collaboration and agreements for the success of D-8 International University as a bridge between nations.

## D-8 TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE NETWORK CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN GRAND STYLE



The D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN), an affiliate body of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), organized a series of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of its establishment. The D-8 TTEN held the main event at its base, the Pardis Technology Park in Tehran, Iran, on 4 October 2023.

Dignitaries from Iran and abroad, including the D-8 Secretary General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, and two former D-8 Secretaries-General, Ambassadors Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari and Dr. Mohammad Mousavi, attended the celebration.

In his statement, the Secretary General of the D-8 Organization, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, recalled the *raison d'être* for the establishment of D-8 TTEN a decade ago, which was to foster technological cooperation, to serve as a business network platform and for the transfer of technology among the eight member countries.

He lauded the D-8 TTEN on its decade of achievements, adding that it had vigorously pursued the development of an integrated technological zone to create a platform for efficient connection between suppliers and demanders of technology among the alliance of the D-8 nations.

Speaking further, the D-8 Secretary-General stated that the establishment of a web portal as the D-8's comprehensive technology database, the setting up of the TTEN High Council meetings as the decision-making platform, hosting of the annual technology investment meetings, and the introduction of a yearly Technology Transfer Award, (TTA), are some of the innovative achievements of the last ten years. Ambassador Imam described the annual TTA award as remarkable for technology transfer and exchange among the D-8 member states, which has been recognized and celebrated.



In his remarks, Dr. Mahdi Saffari Nia, the President of Terhan's Paradis Technology Park, appreciated the contribution of the TTEN to the technological cooperation of the D8 member countries. He expressed the hope that all D-8 Member States will continue their engagement with TTEN to promote the transfer of the latest technological advances in their respective countries.

Mr. Milad Sadrkhanlou, President of the D-8TTEN, presented a brief rundown on the history and achievements of the TTEN since its establishment a decade ago.

On the sidelines of the well-attended event, the TTEN's Advisory Board Council (ABC) convened its first meeting. The meeting enabled the TTEN Secretariat to acquaint the Ambassadors of the D8 Member Countries with the activities of D-8 TTEN.

D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8TTEN) is an informative and transaction-enabled network among the D-8 countries. It aims to encourage collaboration through sharing ideas on technology, as well as capacity building and information dissemination on technological capabilities and achievements.

## BOOSTING D-8 PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**By Sheikh Fazle Fahim**

**The President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI)  
Dhaka, the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

I am honored and privileged to contribute to the Fourth Edition of the D-8 Newsletter for 2024 to further introduce the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D-8). I am happy to inform you that the D8-CCI Business Forum and Expo 2022 was held in Dhaka in July 2022 to mark the silver jubilee of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, established around cooperation among prominent Muslim developing countries across South Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa.

The D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D8-CCI) is the trade and investment affiliate of the D-8, comprising eight national chambers of commerce and collectively representing a five trillion-dollar economy.

The D8-CCI has worked on a strategic roadmap aimed at each of our strength sectors for PTA ratification and engagement in value chain integration across the agriculture, manufacturing, tertiary, and quaternary sectors. The modalities of cooperation we propose employ value chain integration in the long run, mitigating supply chain volatility with pegged price guarantees. This will assist in strengthening supply chain security for agriculture, manufacturing, tertiary, and quaternary sectors, ensuring secured livelihood, employment, and investment within the D-8 economies.

In addition, alternative trade finance and trade facilitation processes such as cross-currency swaps, barter, and blockchain are to be explored to address the D-8 nations' foreign currency reserve vulnerabilities. To address non-tariff barriers, unified standardization and harmonization of processes among D-8 nations are proposed.

Moreover, easing the D-8 visa regime for entrepreneurs may assist in greater connectivity within the D-8 private sectors, resulting in a direct contribution towards greater intra-D-8 trade and flow of investments. Subsequent moves towards mapping contingencies for the D-8 Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (D8-CECA) will assist in the long-term D-8 value chain integration.



Furthermore, enabling technologies across economic sectors, we emphasize on Cybersecurity, 4IR, IOT, AI, Data Analytics, Industrial IOT, Components and Equipment as high priorities of value chain integration. Sustainability, circular economy, she-trades, MSMEs, start-up ecosystem, innovation, green technology, climate change and blue economy are also priority agendas for implementing value chain integration.

The need for an alternative mechanism for dispute resolution between member nations was also acknowledged. As arbitration serves to streamline, smoothen and ensure uninterrupted development of business, investment and trade, it is vital that an effective method for dispute resolution be identified and established. The general consensus was reached with a strong recommendation that the facilitation of alternative dispute resolution, done via the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) Center in Istanbul, be thoroughly examined and evaluated for consideration. Upon successful evaluation, the process may be adapted for disputes arising from the D-8 private sectors; the final decision for which can be decided in the next general assembly.

Additionally, the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industries decided and agreed to revisit the Antalya Joint Declaration, over and above the strategic roadmap. Due to developments beyond our macroeconomic policies, there are always new challenges to overcome in trade but the proposed work plan and strategic roadmap, shared around creating D8-CCI Value Chain Integration, can enable us to tackle these challenges with ease.

## D-8 HSP COLLABORATES WITH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO DRIVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN NIGERIA



D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme (D8-HSP) has intensified its partnerships and collaboration with private sectors and government to accelerate Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Nigeria and other D-8 Member Countries. This is in line with its mandate to advance healthcare, social protection and sustainable development in the D-8 member countries. In Nigeria, the D-8 HSP commenced a community project to support the development of Primary Health Care Centres to ensure improved access to health infrastructure and services.

Driven by the desire to achieve its objective to support the development of Primary Health Care Centres in communities in order to ensure improved access to health infrastructure and services, the D-8 HSP office in Nigeria recently collaborated with Honourable Mohammed Bello El-Rufai, a legislator representing Kaduna North Senatorial District, to build a ward for a hospital in Kaduna State. The D-8 HSP built 10-bed hospital ward was to support the ongoing infrastructural development of 225 Primary Health Care wards in Kaduna State aimed at accelerating UHC gains and improve access to healthcare services.

The goal of the D-8 HSP is to enhance the capacity of the healthcare facilities to provide critical medical services and address healthcare disparities in undeserved communities in Nigeria.

According to Dr Ado J. G. Muhammad, the Global Director of D-8 HSP, “The community healthcare development project of the D-8 HSP is a boost to existing community-driven initiatives across Nigeria. We aspire to support communities in member countries with health facilities equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and staffed by skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals, to ensure member countries are making progress to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).”

## D-8 HSP SUPPORTS NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS TO IMPROVE SERVICES IN NIGERIA



In line with the mandate of the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme to support the health and social protection projects across member countries, the D-8 HSP office in Nigeria, has provided technical assistance to Nigeria's National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRM) to address the gaps in the protection of vulnerable populations, including refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

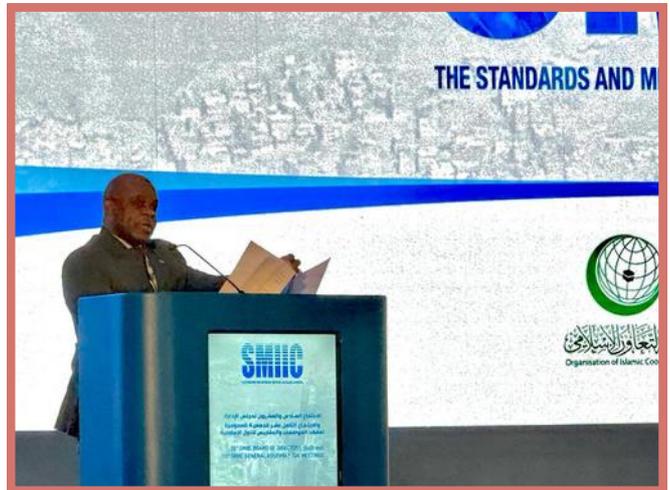
As part of the support to the NCFRM, D-8 HSP also provided a desk officer to strengthen the Commission's capacity to deliver critical services to refugees, migrants and IDPs and to improve access to essential healthcare, education, shelter and livelihood opportunities.

Following the request of the Commission, the D-8 HSP desk officer provided expertise to support the development and implementation of policies and programs that addresses the specific needs of displaced populations. These encompassed initiatives related to legal protection, social integration, and economic empowerment.

Speaking on the support of D-8 HSP to NCFRM, the Global Director of D-8 HSP, Dr. Ado J.G. Muhammad harped on effective coordination among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, (NGOs) and international partners as essential ingredients for responding to displacement crises. He assured that the D-8 HSP will continue to support coordination efforts aimed at fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

## GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNERS

### THE CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE D-8 AND THE SMIIC



Based on the cooperation agreement between the Standard and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), the SMIIC Secretary-General, H.E. İhsan ÖVÜT invited Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General to the 18th General Assembly Meeting which was hosted by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) in the Holy City Makkah Al Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 1 November 2023. H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 18th General Assembly and delivered a speech underscoring the importance of standardization and metrology accuracy to support the D-8 Trade. He underlined the need to effectively implement the MoU between SMIIC GS and the D-8 Organization.



Subsequently, the SMIIC Secretary-General, H.E. İhsan ÖVÜT, also invited Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, to the opening session of the 9th World Halal Summit and Halal Expo 2023, which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye on 23-26 November 2023 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. The Halal Expo was organized by the Discover Events in cooperation with the Standards and Metrology for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and in coordination with other relevant Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) institutions. H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General attended the opening session of 9th World Halal Summit and visited the Halal Expo 2023. The Halal Expo 2023 brought together 314 companies from 45 different countries. With a total of 23,351 visitors, including 7,375 international guests from 82 countries.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



## D-8 Secretariat

**Address: Darüssafaka Cd. Seba Center No:45 Kat:3  
Istinye Sariyer-Istanbul / Türkiye**

**Phone: +90 212 356 18 23  
Email: [info@developing8.org](mailto:info@developing8.org)  
Portal: [www.developing8.org](http://www.developing8.org)**

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