



A quarterly newsletter of the

D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



This issue's highlight:

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 79th SESSION OF UNGA

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE 6th TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT MEETING IN IRAN

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 50th SESSION OF THE OIC CFM

D-8 SG MET HELD MEETING WITH MEMBER STATES D-8 COMMISSIONERS

D-8 SG DELIVERED KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE NIGERIA HALAL ECONOMY

D-8 EXPLORES NEW GENERATION BARTER TRADE SYSTEM TO BOOST ITS INTRA-TRADE

The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), in its efforts to further boost intra-trade relations and enhance economic cooperation amongst its member states, has embarked on establishing the 'D-8 New Generation Barter Trade System' (D-8 NGBT), in collaboration with AS Holding of Türkiye. This was revealed at a symposium on the new generation barter trading, co-hosted by the D-8 Secretariat and AS Holding in Istanbul on Wednesday, 3 July 2024.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Readers,

I am here to present to you the third edition of our beloved organization's newsletter, for 2024. The third quarter of 2024 has been a busy period for us at the Secretariat.

In addition to catering to the wishes of the D-8 Member States, we are simultaneously preparing several meetings and activities that we, the D-8 organization, will organize soon.

One of the highlights of this edition was my participation in the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September. The D-8 can participate in the annual UNGA activities, thanks to the Observer Status, granted to it, in 2014.

The observer status has enabled the D-8 to forge tangible collaboration with various UN Specialized Agencies and bodies to achieve our shared objectives. For instance, the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) facilitated the publication of the Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking in 2020. The document serves as a valuable guidelines to modernize our investment agreements.

Similarly, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has supported the D-8 in several programs and activities. In my latest meeting with the UN DESA, while attending the 79th Session of the UNGA, we identified other activities to collaborate on.

To strengthen the D-8's external relations further, I attended the 50th Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers in Yaoundé, Cameroon, last August and the 3rd Kazan Global Youth Summit in the Republic of Tatarstan, in September.

I was also honored when the Nigerian Vice President, H.E. Kashim Shettima, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), invited me to deliver keynote address at the Nigeria's Halal Economy Stakeholders Program in Abuja in October. I was more than happy to oblige.

We also achieved progress on other fronts, albeit modest.

For example, our novel idea to establish a barter trading system, among the D-8 countries, took off, with the first symposium on barter trading held in Istanbul last July. Once enabled, barter trading may contribute 10% increase in intra-D-8 trade, for the next ten years.

The D-8 organization's affiliated bodies were also active in the third quarter of 2024. Some organized several meetings and activities, while others were busy preparing activities they would manage.



Dear Readers,

The D-8 Organization strives to achieve its objectives against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and other unresolved global issues. The conflict confounds the plight of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, who have been under continuous grave threats, for more than a year now.

As D-8 Member States continue to play their respective roles in solving the conflict and supporting Palestine, it is expected that with our concerted efforts, the conflict in the region will soon be resolved, and enduring peace and stability would materialize. Therefore, we must remain optimistic. Optimism will drive us forward. It will enable us to renew our energy and strive for the better, if not for us, but for our future generations.

And on that somber note, I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, do connect with us through the contact details provided, at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

The Secretary-General

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 79th SESSION OF UNGA

As avenue to further expand the visibility of the D-8 Organization and harness tangible cooperation with external partners, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General (D-8 SG), attended the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York from 22 to 27 September 2024. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations (Director II), at the D-8 Secretariat accompanied the Secretary-General, during the visit.



The D-8 SG also used the opportunity of his visit to the UN in New York to conduct several activities as follows:

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SPOKE AT THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE



The D-8 SG presented the organization's views on the global efforts towards a common digital future, through strengthening inclusive innovation and cooperation to bridge the digital divide at the Summit of the Future, organized by the President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, at the UN Headquarters in New York, on 23 September 2024.

In his statement, the D-8 SG presented three key strategies to bridge the digital divide from the perspective of developing countries, while he underlined the need to (i) produce sound regulatory frameworks, (ii) promote equitable investment and cooperation, and (iii) promote capacity building to bridge digital divide, to support sustainable development.

D-8 SG ATTENDED THE LAUNCHING OF THE UAE-AFRICA ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

During his participation at the 79th UNGA, the D-8 SG attended the launching of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Africa Economic Corridor, upon the invitation of the UAE Trade Center. The launching took place at the UAE Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

At the event, also graced by H.E. Doris Uzoka-Anite, the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment of Nigeria, and H.E. Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank (ADB) (pictured on the right), the D-8 SG noted the vast potentials of business engagement between the two regions. He also used the opportunity of his participation to expand networking with the financial entities, from the two regions.



MEETING WITH ADVISER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BANGLADESH AT THE UNGA SUMMIT

The D-8 SG paid a courtesy call on H.E. Md. Touhid Hossain, the Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 23 September 2024.



The D-8 SG briefed the Adviser on the progress achieved during the Bangladeshi D-8 Presidency, which ended last May. These include the adoption of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) protocol to the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council, and the proposed D-8 Special Economic Zones.

The D-8 SG also enjoined the Adviser to continue guiding Bangladesh’s support & active contribution to the D-8, including participation in D-8’s future activities.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF EGYPT



In his effort to garner support from the D-8 Member States, the D-8 SG also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Badr Abdelatty, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly, in New York on 23 September 2024.

The D-8 SG congratulated and thanked the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, for assuming the duties of the D-8 Chairman-in-Office, since May 2024. He reiterated the D-8 Secretariat’s support to ensure a successful Egyptian D-8 Presidency.

The two dignitaries discussed activities and programs that would support a vibrant Egypt’s D-8 Presidency, with focus on SME development, youth empowerment, broader economic cooperation, and people-to-people contacts.

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF DPIDG/UN DESA

The D-8 SG met with Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the UN DESA, on the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2024.



The two dignitaries discussed the continuation of existing cooperation on e-government, digitalization, and SME developments. They also compared notes on the progress made, so far, on those aforementioned areas.

Furthermore, the two sides exchanged ideas on activities that can be jointly organized in 2024 and 2025. The D-8 SG also asked the Director of DPIDG to continue his support for the D-8’s activities, which, according to him, is the hallmark of the collaboration between the D-8 and the UN.

SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

D-8 EXPLORES NEW GENERATION BARTER TRADE SYSTEM TO BOOST ITS INTRA-TRADE



The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), in its efforts to further boost intra-trade relations and enhance economic cooperation amongst its member states, has embarked on establishing the 'D-8 New Generation Barter Trade System' (D-8 NGBT), in collaboration with AS Holding of Türkiye. This was revealed at a symposium on the new generation barter trading, co-hosted by the D-8 Secretariat and AS Holding in Istanbul on Wednesday, 3 July 2024.

Once established, the D-8 barter trading is expected to rake in surplus of fifty billion dollars, in ten years.

The symposium, which marked a significant step toward fostering economic cooperation, was attended by the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Chairman of AS Holding, Mr. Murat Doğanay, the Deputy Trade Minister of Türkiye, H.E. Mustafa Tuzcu, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce of Bangladesh, Ms. Ayesha Akhtar, and the Rector of Istanbul University of Türkiye, Prof. Osman Bülent Zülfikar, amongst others. The symposium was also attended by financial institutions and relevant officials from the D8 member states.

In his remarks, the D-8 SG underscored the significance of the new barter trading system, which would provide an alternative solution for settling trade balances, among D-8 countries, while also serving as an instrument to boost the volume of trade transactions among member states and reduce the burden on local currencies. The D-8 SG further highlighted that the barter trading system aligns with the call by the President of Türkiye, H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to enhance local currency utilization, within the D8 member states.



The D-8 SG also justified the significant benefits that the barter trading system could have on the economies of the D-8 countries, alluding to the outcome of a study conducted by AS Holding. The study says that barter trading could boost intra-D-8 trade by 50 billion USD, in ten years. Thus, it will save member states the equivalent amount in foreign exchange over the same period. He, therefore, called on member states to participate fully in the novel project, to facilitate trade within the organization's framework.

In his remarks, the Deputy Trade Minister of Türkiye, H.E. Mustafa Tuzcu, emphasized that the D-8 is a veritable vehicle for Islamic countries to bring together their vast economic potential, adding that the barter trading system can be used to address the issue of foreign exchange shortfall in trade financing, as well as global value chain disruption.

Deputy Minister Tuzcu also introduced “friendshoring”, where countries, such as the D-8 members, cooperate in solidarity to support each other, in difficult times. He expressed confidence that the D-8 countries, whose economic production is approximately 15% of the total global output, will be able to transform the world’s economy, by contributing to the UN development agenda.



The Additional Secretary of the Commerce Ministry of Bangladesh, Ms. Ayesha Akhtar, emphasized that Bangladesh has always prioritized her relationship with the D-8. She expressed her conviction that the new generation barter system will create trade opportunities among D-8 member countries. She also pointed out the importance of the meeting, noting that, although the system is old, its renewal and implementation will enhance commercial relations, among D-8 member states.

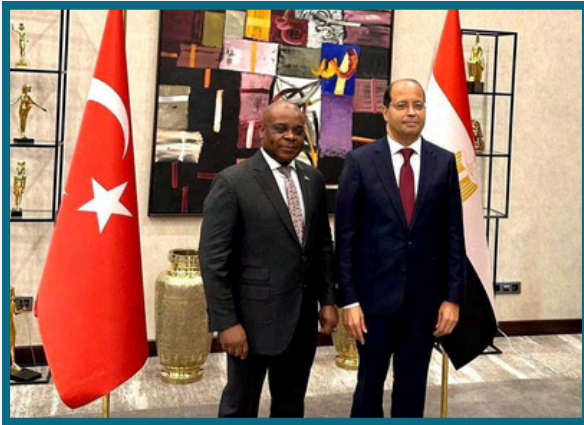


In his statement, the Chairman of AS Holding, Mr. Murat Doğanay, lamented that the level of intra-trade among D-8 countries is still relatively low. He noted that intra-D-8 trade stagnates at around 100 billion dollars, corresponding to 2% of the global trade volume. “Our goal should be to raise intra-trade among ourselves to 500 billion dollars and bring this rate to at least 10% of the D-8’s total external trade,” added Mr. Murat.

As part of the Symposium, a technical meeting was organized comprised of Experts from the D-8 Member States. The Experts deliberated on the legal procedures that will enable the smooth implementation of the D-8 barter trading system, in their respective countries.

The barter trade system is expected to revolutionize trade among D-8 countries, through a structured barter trading framework. This framework will include establishing a D-8 Barter Clearing House to manage the barter accounts of governments and companies involved, using Exim banks to facilitate and secure barter transactions, and the creation of a robust Barter Market across the eight member countries.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED EGYPT'S NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION



The D-8 SG attended the Diplomatic Reception organized by the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Ankara, Türkiye for the celebration of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Ankara on 9 July 2024. He congratulated Ambassador Amr El-Hamamy of Egypt on the auspicious occasion.

The following day, the D-8 SG held a meeting with the Egyptian Ambassador in Ankara on 10 July 2024. The two dignitaries discussed various programs and activities within the D-8 framework.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF OSTIM

In his effort to engage more robustly with the private sector, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with the top management of OSTIM Technopark in Ankara on 11 July 2024.



The D-8 SG held discussion with the OSTIM team, led by Mr. Orhan Aydın, the Chairman of the OSTIM Board of Directors. The two sides discussed collaboration on how to apply the OSTIM model of integrated industrial zone in the D-8 member states, to enhance technological development in the higher education.

They agreed, in principle, to establish an instrument of cooperation, which will be discussed later. The D-8SG invited OSTIM Technic University to join the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI). He also invited OSTIM to the Technology Investment Meeting of the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN), in Malaysia in October 2024.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Ünsal Sıgı, the Vice Rector of OSTIM Technic University, Mr. Behzat Zeydan, OSTIM Board Member, Dr. Derya Çağlar, the OSTIM Teknopark General Manager, Dr. Ömer Yıldız, faculty members of the OSTIM Technic University, and Ms. Esmâ Akyüz, OSTIM Foreign Trade Coordinator and heads of the OSTIM's seven clusters. Director II of the D-8 Secretariat also participated in the Meeting.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OIC-ARBITRATION CENTRE VISITED THE D-8 SECRETARIAT



Dr. Umar Oseni, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation—Arbitration Centre (OIC-AC), visited the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 16 July 2024. During the visit, the two sides agreed to collaborate on capacity-building programs and activities to boost trade cooperation.

They also exchanged views on trade facilitation, including dispute prevention and resolution.

AMBASSADOR IMAM RECEIVED A DELEGATION FROM THE IYMER GROUP

Bolstering private sector engagement, the D-8 SG received Mr. Fatih Poyraz and his delegation from the IYMER group, Türkiye, at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 16 July 2024.

The two sides discussed the preparation for a business mission by the IYMER Group to the D-8 Member States, starting with Nigeria, in the fourth quarter of 2024.



D-8 SECRETARY GENERAL HOSTED ALICE AGADA FOUNDATION (AAF), A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION FROM NIGERIA, DURING ITS VISIT TO ISTANBUL



In line with its avowed commitment to enhance the standard of living of Citizens, through forging of partnership with non-governmental organizations, across the member states, the D-8 Secretariat held a meeting with Alice Agada Foundation from Nigeria on 1 August 2024, at the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul.

The D-8, led by the SG, discussed potential collaborations with Alice Agada Foundation, which was led by its Founder and Chairperson, Ms. Alice Agada. The issues discussed centered on health and social protection, poverty alleviation programs and women empowerment, as well as access to education, for the vulnerable people.

The two sides further exchanged views on each other's priority areas and identified future collaboration on mental health, vocational training, and entrepreneurship, to support human resources development.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WAIPA VISITED D-8 SECRETARIAT

To bolster cooperation in the areas of investments, as contained in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030, the D-8 SG hosted Mr. Ismail Ersahin, the Executive Director of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), on a Courtesy visit to the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 2 August 2024.

The two dignitaries discussed joint activities on investment collaboration between the D-8 and WAIPA. Mr. Ersahin also invited the D-8 SG to attend the 28th WAIPA World Investment Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 25 to 27 November 2024.



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED AT THE 6TH TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT MEETING (TIM) OF D-8 TTEN



The D-8 SG participated in the 6th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM) of the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN), hosted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 13 August 2024.

The event, which was part of the Malaysian Commercialization Year (MCY) Summit, brought together pioneering start-ups from the D-8 member states to exchange cutting-edge technologies and foster innovation across various sectors.

The previous day, the D-8 SG also attended the inauguration ceremony of the MCY Summit, where YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Malaysia, delivered opening remarks.

The TIM event highlighted the extraordinary contributions of startups in information technologies, artificial intelligence, and medical technologies, with awards presented to acknowledge their outstanding achievements.

THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL (MULTILATERAL) OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF MALAYSIA

The D-8 SG met with Ambassador Dato' Bala Chandran Tharman, the Deputy Secretary-General (Multilateral) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, at the Foreign Ministry of Malaysia on 12 August 2024. Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director I, at the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG during the visit.



The dignitaries discussed the strategy to further strengthen cooperation amongst the D-8 countries in areas such as digital economy, development financing, and trade.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE 3RD KAZAN GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT IN KAZAN



As part of mainstreaming youth empowerment in the cooperation Agenda of the D-8, and to foster partnership with other organizations in achieving this objective, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General participated in the 3rd Kazan Global Youth Summit in Kazan, the Republic of Tatarstan, on 21-24 August 2024. Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director II, and Dr. Ismail Bello, Executive Assistant III at the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the D-8 SG during the visit.

The D-8 SG attended the Youth Summit, on the invitation of the President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYP), where he participated in the panel of discussion on youth and digitalization. While speaking at the event, D-8 SG introduced the D-8 and its activities in promoting youth empowerment. He highlighted the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council, which will become operational soon.

THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ICYF

On the margins of the 3rd Kazan Global Youth Summit, the D-8 SG also met with H.E. Mr. Taha Ayhan, the President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), on 22 August 2024.

The two dignitaries discussed potential cooperation between the D-8 and ICYF in promoting youth empowerment and joint activities to be conducted soon. Considering both offices are in Istanbul, the two dignitaries agreed to strengthen mutual consultations on this matter, by proposing the establishment of a memorandum of cooperation (MoC).



THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS



While in Kazan for the Global Youth Summit, the D-8 SG also held a bilateral meeting with Ms. Rania Samy Hassan Fahmy Abdelgawad, a Senior Official of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 23 August 2024.

The two dignitaries identified several activities that the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports could organize jointly with youth stakeholders of the D-8 Member States, within the framework of Egypt's D-8 Presidency. They agreed to maintain regular contact to discuss the way forward for the proposed activities.

D-8 SG PARTICIPATED AT THE 50TH SESSION OF THE OIC CFM IN YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

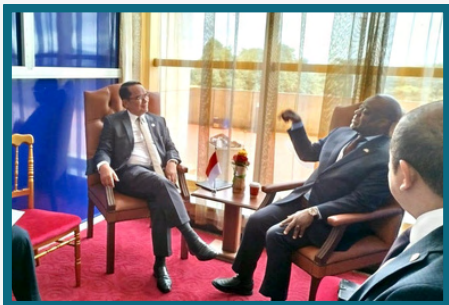
To harness closer working relationship with other partner international organizations to support the achievement of the D-8 objectives, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 SG, attended the 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (50th OIC CFM) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 29 to 30 August 2024. Director II, Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, accompanied the D-8 SG, during the visit.

The invitation to participate at the 50th OIC CFM was extended to the D-8 SG by the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), H.E. Ebrahim Taha. While there, the D-8 SG took note of salient points discussed during the OIC CFM, that aligns with the D-8's key priority areas, particularly on improving infrastructure, transportation and ICT to support economic development and growth.

While in Yaoundé, the D-8 SG also conducted several side meetings as follows.



Meeting with the D-8 Commissioner of Indonesia



The D-8 SG held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Ambassador Tri Tharyat, the D-8 Commissioner of Indonesia, on the margins of the 50th OIC CFM in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 29 August 2024.

The two diplomats discussed the way forward for the D-8 to achieve the objectives of the organization. One of the key issues discussed, during their meeting, was the need to expedite action on the organization-wide operationalization of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), a unique instrument of the D-8 to promote trade among the Member States.

Meeting with the D-8 Commissioner of Nigeria



The D-8 SG met with H.E. Dunoma Umar Ahmed, Ph.D., the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / D-8 Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the margins of the 50th OIC CFM in Yaounde, on 30 August 2024.

The D8SG presented an update on the D-8 organization, including activities that Nigeria will organize in 2024 and 2025.

Meeting with the D-8 Commissioner of Malaysia



Continuing his engagement with D-8 Member States attending the OIC meeting, the D-8 SG met with H.E. Adlan Mohd Shaffieq, the D-8 Commissioner of Malaysia, on the margins of the 50th OIC CFM in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 30 August 2024.

The two dignitaries discussed future activities of the D-8, including the forthcoming 11th D-8 Summit in Cairo Egypt.

Meeting with the D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh



During his official trip to Yaounde, Cameroon, the D-8 SG met with H.E. Mme. Wahida Ahmed, the D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh, on the margins of the 50th OIC CFM in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 30 August 2024.

The D-8 Secretary-General and the D-8 Commissioner of Bangladesh discussed various D-8's future activities, including meetings of the D-8 principal organs.

Meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, also met with H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, the Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the margins of the 50th OIC CFM in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 30 August 2024.

The D-8 SG briefed his counterpart on the D-8's progress, including future D-8 activities in 2024 and 2025.

THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE SEMINAR OF ISDB GROUP IN ANKARA

On the invitation of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDBG), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated in the Seminar organized by isDB office in Ankara, on 5 September, 2024, on Strategy by isDB for Türkiye for 2024 - 2026.

The D-8 SG noted several salient points about the IsDBG's initiatives to support development in Türkiye. He, therefore, used the opportunity to exchange views with critical international financial organizations and development partners, with a view to harness stronger south-south cooperation that could benefit the D8 Organization.



THE D-8 SG MET WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SESRIC



While in Ankara, the D-8 SG met with H.E. Mme. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, the Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) on 6 September 2024.

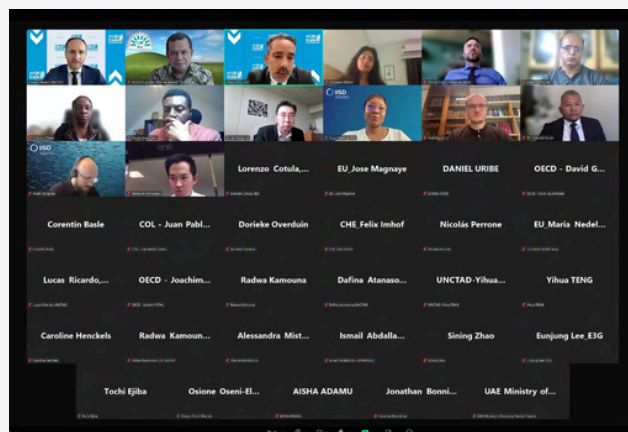
The two dignitaries identified tangible cooperation in research and capacity-building programs, within the framework of south-south cooperation. Both parties shared common views that collaboration must be geared toward achieving sustainable development and equitable economic advancement.

They also identified various joint programs & activities, including joint research and data-driven studies, to elevate economic development.

D-8 SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 2nd MEETING OF THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM ON IIA OF UNCTAD

The D-8 Secretariat, represented by Director Punjul Nugraha, participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Multistakeholder Platform on International Investment Agreement of United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held virtually on 10 September 2024.

The Meeting discussed convergences and divergences in the reform of investment policy, covering novel ideas and topics, such as sustainability, the rights to govern, and balance on regulations.



D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ECO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BANK (ECO BANK)



To broaden collaboration on project implementation of the D-8 Organization, the D-8 SG met with Dr. Mohammad Hashem Botshekan, the President of ECO Trade and Development Bank in Istanbul, on 12 September 2024.

The two dignitaries identified collaborative measures in technical and project-based cooperation to support each other's objectives in economic development. They also agreed to tap into the MoU between the D-8 and ECO, as the basis for further consultation.

D-8 SECRETARIAT ATTENDED THE SEMINAR OF CLIMATE-COMPATIBLE EDUCATION OF IRS OF PAKISTAN

In line with its effort to contribute to the global efforts to address climate change crisis, the D-8 Secretariat participated in the seminar titled "Climate-Compatible Education", which was held virtually by the Institute of Regional Studies of Pakistan, on 12 September 2024.

The D-8 Secretariat presented the D-8 latest effort to mainstream climate change in its development cooperation agenda. The D-8 will also closely follow the proceedings of the COP29, which will be hosted in Azerbaijan in November this year.



THE D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE NIGERIA HALAL ECONOMY STAKEHOLDER'S ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary General of D-8, delivered a keynote address at the Nigeria Halal Economy Stakeholder's Engagement Program, organized by the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria on September 18, 2024, at the Banquet Hall, State House, Abuja.

The D-8 SG highlighted Nigeria's potential to become a global player in the Halal economy, and provided key recommendations, in that regard. He commended the current Administration's efforts to diversify the country's economy, while assuring the authorities of the D-8's full support to promote Nigeria's Halal products, across D-8 member states and globally.

While in Abuja, the D-8 SG also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Kashim Shettima GCON, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on 17 September 2024. The D-8 SG used the opportunity to apprise the Vice President on the current development and progress at the D-8 Organization and sought for support and cooperation of the Vice President for D8 activities Nigeria will host in 2024 and 2025.

The D-8 SG also met separately with the CEO of Invest Nigeria and Dar Al-Halal Group of Nigeria in Abuja on 19 September 2024. The meetings allowed the D-8 SG to identify potential cooperation between the D-8 and the two potential partners, in developing innovative economic practices, across the D8 member countries, including Nigeria.

ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATED BODIES

D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

D-8 International University takes action to implement the International Bridge Initiative



D-8 International University (D8 IU) offers dual degree PhDs in a flexible form. The management of the D-8IU expressed readiness to provide an opportunity for all D-8 member states' students to gain international academic experience, under the dual degree PHDs programme.

The primary objective of this proposal is to initiate a Dual Degree PhD Program, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the D8 IU and various universities within D-8 International Universities network. Under this program, doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to pursue their research across two institutions, enriching their academic experience, using international resources, and fostering international collaboration.

Students enrolled in this program will begin their studies, at partner universities that have MoUs with D-8IU. Subsequently, they will transit to D-8IU's institution to further their research, particularly benefiting from field study opportunities. This research time is a fraction of all the research they need in their PhD studies. Even if students secure advisors or supervisors from within D-8IU, the program will still offer dual degrees, ensuring that both students and professors gain valuable international experience.

In line with the implementation of the international bridge initiative, D-8IU has prepared and arranged a supplementary agreement based on the terms and framework of the cooperation agreement that it had previously signed with University of Education, (UoE), Pakistan. The D-8IU agree to allocate up to 15 seats for PhD students registered at UoE in the fields of Archaeology, History, Literature, Chemistry and Agriculture (Botany), in its International Bridge Initiative, per year.

According to this programme, and in order to implement this plan, a committee has been formed and two universities, D-8IU and UoE, have been appointed as members of this committee and have held meetings. After defining the framework and final details, the D-8IU is ready to implement it with other universities, that are parties to the understanding.

An MoU was signed with Hamedan University of Technology

Universities play a central role in fostering scientific diplomacy and international collaborations.

During the period under report, D-8IU has signed a memorandum of understanding with Hamedan University of Technology on 19 August 2024.



D-8 International University

D-8 International University held several webinars, seminars and workshops



A webinar on “Challenges and Patterns in International Student Recruitment” was organized on 13 July 2024, as a pre-event to the first International Exhibition of Study Attractions in Iran. Dr. Abdul Razak Ahmad, the Chairman of Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), shared Malaysia’s experiences, in attracting international students.

D-8 International University and Hamedan University of Technology organized a seminar on the evaluation of large language models on, 28 August 2024.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the D-8 International University, Bu-Ali Sina University, Iran and Hamedan University of Technology, Iran, collaborated and jointly organized a workshop titled “Enhancing the Visibility of Scientific and Research Outputs”, on 30 September 2024.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024)

- **13th D-8 MEETING OF DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON CIVIL AVIATION (D-8 DGCA)**



12-14 NOVEMBER



ANTALYA, THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

- **3rd MEETING OF THE D-8 NETWORK OF PIONEERS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (D-8 NPRI)**



24-27 NOVEMBER



ILORIN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

- **48th SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION MEETING**



16-17 DECEMBER



THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- **21st SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING**



18 DECEMBER



THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- **11th D-8 SUMMIT MEETING**



19 DECEMBER



THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

D-8 TOURISM DESTINATIONS: A VISUAL JOURNEY

We are delighted to present the D-8 Tourism Destinations, a visual journey through the mesmerizing landscapes, historical landmarks, and vibrant cultures of our esteemed Member Countries. This page is dedicated to highlighting the unparalleled beauty and rich heritage that each D-8 country has to offer.

From ancient wonders to modern marvels, serene beaches to bustling cityscapes, each destination featured here tells a story of tradition, resilience, and hospitality. As you explore these images, we hope they inspire you to discover the unique treasures of our Member States and experience their warm embrace firsthand.



KAPTAI LAKE, BANGLADESH



FAYROUZ BEACH, EGYPT



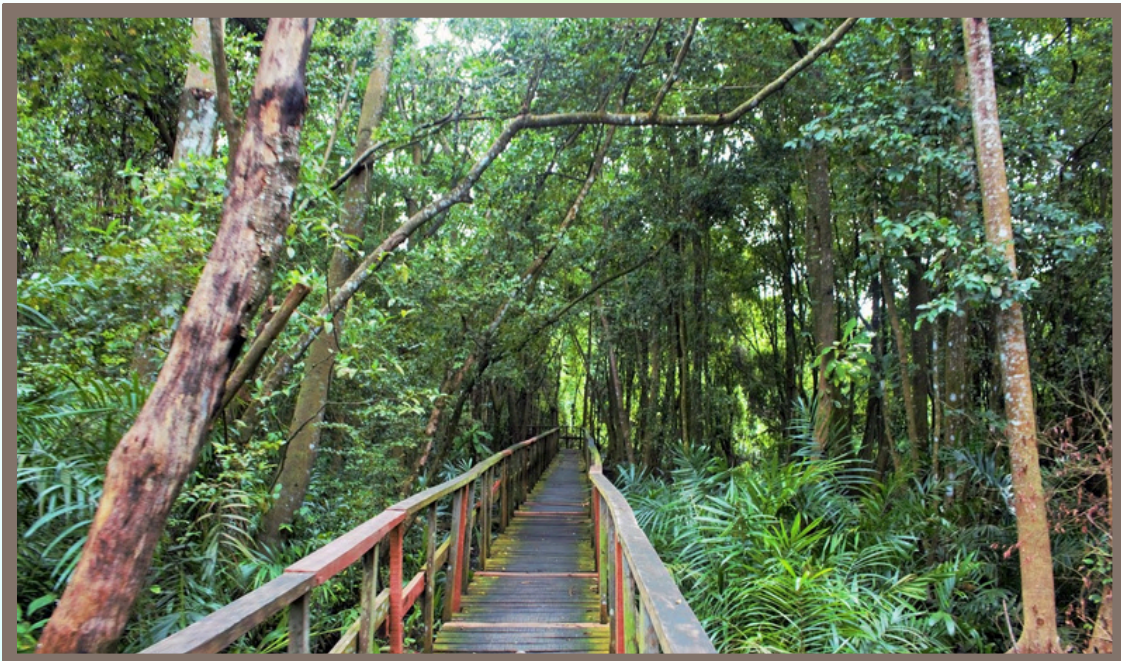
THE LAKE TOBA, INDONESIA



PANJDARI, PERSIAN ARCHITECTURE, IRAN



KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA



LEKKI CONSERVATION CENTRE, NIGERIA



FAIRY MEADOWS, PAKISTAN



CAPPADOCIA, TÜRKİYE



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



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