



A quarterly newsletter of the D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



This issue's highlight:

AMBASSADOR IMAM HELD BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN

D-8 BUSINESS FORUM HELD IN INDONESIA

D-8 13TH DGCA MEETING WAS HELD IN ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED INVESTMENT AND TOURISM FORUM

D-8 NPRI HELD ITS THIRD MEETING IN ILORIN, NIGERIA

THE 11TH D-8 SUMMIT IN CAIRO: EGYPT ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP WITH RENEWED VISION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

The 11th Summit of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) was successfully held at the Presidential Palace in the New Capital, Cairo, Egypt, on 19 December 2024. The 11th D-8 Summit, under the theme: "Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy," was hosted and chaired by His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Honorable President of Egypt, who assumed the D-8 Chairmanship, from Bangladesh.



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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Readers,

I am happy to greet you again through this fourth edition for 2024 D-8 Organization's newsletter. And this final quarter of 2024 has been momentous for us.

The 11th D-8 Summit and its related meetings, namely; the 21st Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers and the 48th Session of the D-8 Commission, which were hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo from 16 to 19 December 2024, went smoothly.

No doubt, the 11th D-8 Summit of the Heads of State and Government has strengthened the D-8 Organization's foundation to build a more robust and resilient inter-governmental body, by producing notable outcomes.

First, our Leaders approved the application of the Republic of Azerbaijan as the ninth member of the D-8. This marked a significant milestone for further expansion of our organization in the future. The next step would be for Azerbaijan to ratify the D-8 Charter and submit its instrument of ratification to the D-8 Secretariat, for full membership. In the meantime, my colleagues and I, at the D-8 Secretariat, look forward to Azerbaijan's active contributions and participation in activities of the Organization.

Second, the 11th Summit also marked the official transition of the D-8 Presidency, from the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The transition was smooth and this signify the dynamic of our organization. We are happy that as the D-8 Chair, the Arab Republic of Egypt has prepared programs and activities that they will organize, ranging from capacity building and research to ministerial meetings on trade and health, amongst others.

Third, the theme of the Summit, "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy," was timely. Youth comprise the majority of the D-8 combined population, and therefore, mainstreaming youth empowerment becomes a crucial agenda for the D-8. In the same vein, the SMEs are also the backbone of our economies, as it comprises more than 80% of the total enterprises in the D-8.

Fourth, the Summit was also a testament that the D-8 is a strong collective voice of the Global South in pursuing solidarity and upholding the principles of fairness and justice. This is evident from the dedication of a special session on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon, as an integral part of the Summit. We noted with appreciation that our Leaders reiterated their unanimous support for Palestine and Lebanon, by calling for immediate and permanent ceasefire and an end to the inhumane and genocidal atrocities inflicted against the Palestinians.



The Summit also further strengthens the position of the D-8 in global standing. Leaders of our neighboring countries and partner organizations, including the President of Palestine, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), were invited to participate. At the same time, the Secretary-General of the UN delivered a recorded goodwill message.

Furthermore, the 11th D-8 Summit was the first face-to-face Summit after more than seven years. As we know, the 10th Summit was hosted virtually by Bangladesh in 2021, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Therefore, through this medium, I invite you to applaud the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for successfully hosting the 11th D-8 Summit and its related meetings.

Dear Readers,

Apart from the Summit, the D-8 Organization, and its affiliated bodies, have also recorded appreciable progress. For example, I attended programs, at the invitation of our partners, and this has provided me with valuable opportunities to strengthen our ties with our partners. As we know, collaboration is key to achieving our shared objectives.

In civil aviation, our member states' experts and Directors-General responsible for civil aviation gathered in Antalya in November for their 14th Meeting. They agreed to expedite the negotiation for a D8 air services agreement to facilitate the movement of people, which will serve as a backbone to solidify our cooperation.

In terms of business-to-business contact, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (KADIN) and the Indonesian Employers Association (APINDO) organized the D-8 Business Forum in Jakarta in October. The well-attended Forum was organized as part of the 39th Trade Expo Indonesia, one of the largest trade exhibitions in Asia.

Looking ahead, I am confident that we can – and we will – achieve so much more in 2025. We must remain vigilant, however, since the global situation is still volatile. Conflicts are still flaring in some parts of our world. The economic crisis is equally unpredictable and brimmed with many surprises.

What's more, the threat of climate change is becoming even more evident, everywhere. Reports state that the global temperature in 2024 has surpassed 1.5 degrees Celsius, contrary to the Paris Agreement, which aims at an increase of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. And we witnessed climate change's impact everywhere.



We must also be agile – always in the ready – to face uncertainties. I am sure most of us remember vividly how the COVID-19 pandemic caught us off guard. And we also remember vividly how devastating its impacts were.

This is why we must strengthen our collaborations. We must set aside our differences and synergize our collective resolve to achieve our shared goals and objectives. Collaboration is key. It is key for us to move further and faster, but it is also crucial in nurturing peace. Peace will provide us with a conducive environment to pursue our goals.

And with that, I thank you all for the support you have rendered to us and all of the valuable assistance you have given us in 2024. I wish you a vibrant, peaceful, and prosperous 2025.

With warmest regards,

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

The Secretary-General

11th D-8 SUMMIT AND ITS PRECEDING MEETINGS

THE 11TH D-8 SUMMIT IN CAIRO: EGYPT ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP WITH RENEWED VISION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH



The 11th Summit of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) was successfully held at the Presidential Palace in the New Capital, Cairo, Egypt, on 19 December 2024. The 11th D-8 Summit, under the theme: “Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow’s Economy,” was hosted and chaired by His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Honorable President of Egypt, who assumed the D-8 Chairmanship, from Bangladesh.

The Summit welcomed the Heads of State and Government of the D-8 Member States: Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye. Special guests included the President of Palestine, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Secretary-General of the Arab League, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt.

The Summit commenced with a formal Chairmanship handover ceremony from Bangladesh to Egypt. Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, delivered the outgoing Chair’s statement, reflecting on the achievements of Bangladesh, during its tenure.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, in his opening remarks, emphasized the critical role of youth empowerment and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in driving economic growth and sustainable development. He further underlined Egypt’s readiness to share its expertise in various sectors, including digital economy, artificial intelligence (AI), renewable energy, and agriculture, to promote cooperation among Member States. He further announced Egypt’s commitment to ratify the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), a move expected to enhance intra-D-8 trade activities, significantly.



In his remarks, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, highlighted the organization's significant progress in trade, tourism, and agriculture and food security. He proposed several initiatives, including expanding the PTA into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, establishing a D-8 Development Fund, and exploring the blue economy's potential. The Secretary-General reiterated the importance of youth and SME development, as cornerstones of sustainable economic growth.



Leaders of other D-8 Member States appreciated the Government of Bangladesh for its impactful chairmanship. They emphasized the importance of solidarity and cooperation among the D-8 countries, home to a combined population of 1.2 billion. They underscored the pivotal role of youth and SMEs in leveraging the vast economic potential of the Member States.



The Leaders charted the way forward for the D-8, as enumerated in the Cairo Declaration, which was adopted as the Summit outcome document.

In addition to economic discussions, the Summit addressed pressing humanitarian crises in Palestine and Lebanon, in a special session dedicated to address the issues. The Leaders reiterated their unwavering support for Palestine and strongly voiced their unanimous call to end all kinds of atrocities committed by Israel against Palestine and Lebanon. They also called for sustained humanitarian assistance for Palestine, including ensuring the sustainability of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Leaders' commitments to supporting Palestine were crystalized in the Joint Communique, which was issued, thereafter.

The Summit also marked a crucial milestone for the D-8 expansion. The Leaders unanimously approved the application of the Republic of Azerbaijan, thus welcoming her as the ninth Member State of the D-8 Organization. Azerbaijan must now ratify the D-8 Charter and submit its instrument of ratification to become a full member.



The 11th D-8 Summit was preceded by several high-level meetings, that laid the groundwork for the Summit’s successful outcomes.

The 48th Session of the D-8 Commission Meeting, composed of senior diplomats from the Foreign Ministries of the D-8 Member States, convened on 16 December 2024 to discuss financial and administrative matters, the expansion of the organization, and planned activities for 2025. Key agenda items included the preparation of the Cairo Declaration, Joint Communiqué, and the organization's financial sustainability. The meeting also explored strategies for enhancing intra-D-8 trade and operational efficiency.

On 18 December 2024, the 21st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States deliberated on critical issues, including the Cairo Declaration, membership expansion, and financial and administrative proposals presented by the Commission. The Ministers finalized the agenda for the Summit, ensuring alignment on strategic priorities such as SME development, youth empowerment, and trade facilitation. The Ministers also approved several administrative matters for the D-8’s day-to-day operation.

On the margins of the Summit, the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC) hosted the 4th General Assembly of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) on 17 December 2024 at its headquarters, in its capacity as the current President of the D8 - CCI. This significant meeting brought together leaders and representatives from the National Chambers of Commerce and Industries of the D-8 Member States. Discussions centered on enhancing trade and investment activities within the bloc, identify new sectors for economic cooperation, and creating a roadmap for private-sector-led growth in 2025. The Assembly also explored innovative ways to facilitate SME access to international markets and foster public-private partnerships.

The 11th D-8 Summit reaffirmed the organization’s commitment to fostering economic prosperity through collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. With the Arab Republic of Egypt at the helms, the D-8 Organization is poised to embark on a new chapter of dynamic growth, driven by youth empowerment and SME development.

STATEMENTS BY THE LEADERS AT THE 11TH D-8 SUMMIT

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi



“In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful”

**Your Highnesses and Excellencies,
The Heads of State and Government and participating delegations,
Your Excellency, Dr. Isiaka Abdul Qadir Imam,
Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I welcome you all to Egypt, specifically to the New Administrative Capital, which embodies a blend of cultural heritage, civilization and developmental progress.

Definitely, each of our countries has its own unique history, civilization, culture as well as economic background. This diversity enriches our organization, fostering the spirit of solidarity, integration and collaborative work among us.

I like to seize this opportunity to express profound appreciation to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Head of Bangladesh's Interim Government, for his country's unyielding efforts during its presidency of the organization. I also like to extend gratitude to the organization's Secretariat, led by Dr. Isiaka Abdul Qadir Imam, for its diligent work and tireless efforts in preparing for his summit.

Honorable attendees,

Today, the 11th summit of the organization convenes under the theme “Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy”. This theme is of paramount significance, as it focuses on the imperative to invest in the youth, the architects of our nations' present and future. This is in addition to its economic aspects, which are closely connected to reinforcing SMEs, the driving force for economic growth in developing countries.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

Ladies and gentlemen,

We gather today at a juncture marked by unprecedented challenges and crises afflicting the world, and the Middle East in particular. The global landscape is dominated by conflicts and wars, exacerbated by the rise of economic and trade protectionism and the prevalence of double-standards.

Perhaps, the starkest evidence of this is the persistent Israeli war against the Palestinian people, which blatantly defies the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is compounded by the risk and threat of the conflict spilling over into other countries, as evidenced by Lebanon and Syria, which is under relentless attack on its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The potential for further escalation could ignite the region, with devastating political and economic ramifications for all.

Given our shared responsibility to stand in solidarity with our Palestinian and Lebanese brothers, we have decided to dedicate a special session during our summit today to discuss the situation in Palestine and Lebanon.

Your Excellencies and Highnesses,

Developing countries are encountering formidable challenges, impeding their endeavors to fulfil their peoples' aspirations for prosperity and development. With the lack of funding, mounting debt, a widening digital and knowledge divide, and increasing poverty, hunger and youth unemployment rates, developing countries are grappling with the persistent challenge of achieving meaningful progress and growth.

Addressing these complex challenges requires concerted efforts to forge closer cooperation and implement joint projects and initiatives in various spheres, primarily in communications and information technology, digital economy, AI application, agriculture, transformative industries, new and renewable energy, notably green hydrogen, as well as supporting and developing SMEs.

Despite the diversity of our economic conditions, we all concur on the indispensable need to share our knowledge and successful experiences to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. Egypt is fully prepared to share its successful experiences with member states, notably the "Decent Life" and "Takaful w Karama" initiatives, as well as its infrastructure and urban development projects.

Grounded in its unwavering belief in the imperative of generating impetus to joint cooperation among our countries, it gives me pleasure to declare the launch of the following initiatives during Egypt's presidency of the organization:

First: The launch of a "Network for Directors of Diplomatic Institutes and Academies" to foster their cooperation and build the capacities of diplomatic personnel, to keep pace with contemporary issues.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Arab Republic of Egypt H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

Second: The launch of an online competition for pre-university students in member states in the fields of science, engineering, and applied technologies.

Third: The launch of a "Network for Cooperation between Economic Think Tanks" in member states to share ideas and visions on ways to boost economic cooperation, investment and trade among our countries.

Fourth: The initiation of regular meetings for the Ministers of Health of member state, with Egypt hosting the first meeting in 2025, to discuss ways to leverage advanced technological and scientific applications to develop this vital sector.

I would also like to seize this opportunity, to announce Egypt's intention to ratify the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States, thereby reaffirming the crucial need to bolster intra-trade among member states.

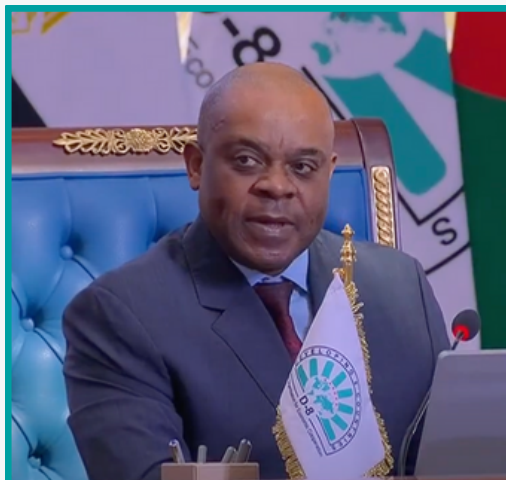
Finally, I wish you all success in fruitful consultations and deliberations to achieve our shared goals and interests and to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our peoples for a brighter future, God willing.

Thank you

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon you.

Source of Statement: *Presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt*

Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam



Your Excellency, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Honorable President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, and our generous host.

Your Excellency, Professor Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, our immediate past D-8 Chair.

Your Excellencies, Presidents, Your Excellencies Prime Ministers.

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, of the D-8 Member States.

The Special Guests of Honor.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu'alaikum and good morning.

I am honored to address this momentous gathering of our Leaders, at the 11th Summit of the Leaders of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for their exceptional organization of this Summit, in the magnificent city of Cairo. This city, holds a special place in my heart, as I am an alumnus of the American University in Cairo, while my late beloved father, served as Ambassador of Nigeria to Egypt, from 1978 to 1984.

Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for hosting this, Summit. The arrangements and hospitality extended to us, since our arrival, have been truly outstanding.

Honorable Chairman, Excellencies, Esteemed Leaders,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Allow me to congratulate His Excellency, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, on assuming the role of D-8 Chairman. We are confident, that under his able leadership, the D-8 will achieve its goals and grow to a higher level.

I commend the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for their remarkable efforts, during their tenure, as D-8 Chair. I also congratulate His Excellency, Muhammad Yunus, a renowned figure globally and Nobel Laureate, on being chosen as the Chief Advisor of the Government of Bangladesh.

Also, I congratulate His Excellency Masoud Pezeshkian, on his election as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

To His Excellency, Prabowo Subianto, President of Indonesia, congratulations on your recent assumption of Office. We look forward to seeing Indonesia prosper, under your guidance.

I also warmly congratulate His Excellency Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, for steering Malaysia, toward socio-economic stability and progress.

To His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I commend your bold reforms and dedication to socio-economic development, which has positioned Nigeria, for significant progress.

My heartfelt congratulations, goes to His Excellency Shehbaz Sharif, on his re-election, as Prime Minister of Pakistan. Under his leadership, Pakistan's economic recovery has been, noteworthy, putting the country on a promising path of development.

I also commend His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, for his exemplary leadership, elevating Türkiye's global standing, and setting a benchmark for development and progress.

Honourable Chairman, Excellencies, Esteemed Leaders,
Since this is my first time addressing this noble Summit, I must express what an honor it has been to serve this esteemed Organization as its Secretary-General. Since assuming office in January 2022, I have worked diligently to advance the D-8 agenda. With your continued support, I pledge to discharge my duties with dedication until the conclusion of my term next year.

Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

The Egyptian D-8 Presidency comes at a pivotal moment for two reasons.

First, we are recovering from the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which underscored the necessity of collaboration in addressing global challenges. Second, conflicts persist globally, including the deeply concerning situations in Palestine and Lebanon. Egypt's resolve to host this Summit and dedicate a special session to these crises is highly commendable.

Since taking office, I have prioritized innovative approaches to strengthen cooperation, particularly through enhanced private-sector engagement and integration with public sectors. This has boosted intra-trade cooperation and enhanced the visibility of the D-8 both within member states and globally. We have achieved significant milestones in several key areas:

Trade: The D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) has been effectively implemented by Türkiye and Indonesia, with Egypt set to join as a Contracting Member. Additionally, the Dispute Settlement Mechanism Protocol was finalized this year and is gaining traction among member states.

Tourism: Our tourism cooperation agenda advanced with the successful 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Pakistan and the launch of the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award, with Antalya, Türkiye, as the inaugural recipient for 2025.

Agriculture: We organized workshops on climate-smart agriculture and inaugurated the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security in Faisalabad, Pakistan. Furthermore, an MoU with the Islamic Organization for Food Security was finalized.

Youth: The First D-8 Youth Ministers Meeting was successfully hosted by Bangladesh, with plans underway to launch the D-8 Youth Council. Nigeria is set to host the second meeting in 2025.

External Relations: We have forged impactful collaborations with international organizations like the UN, OIC, and ECO, focusing on e-Government networks, SME development, and capacity-building.

Private-Sector Engagement: Initiatives such as the Super App project with Al-Hidayah Group and the New Generation Barter Trading System are expected to significantly contribute to member economies.

Honourable Chairman, Excellencies, Esteemed Leaders,

To further our economic integration, I propose the following strategic initiatives:

D-8 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA): This initiative aims to deepen economic integration. I urge the leadership to direct relevant ministries and agencies to collaborate with the Secretariat to bring this vision to fruition. Implementing the D-8 Visa Agreement will be crucial for its success.

Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

D-8 Development Fund: Establishing this fund will catalyze innovative projects proposed by entrepreneurs across member states. I request your support in directing relevant entities to collaborate with the Secretariat on a comprehensive feasibility study.

Support for SME Development: SMEs are the backbone of our economies, and I call upon our leaders to bolster their capacity through microfinance, e-commerce facilitation, industrial parks, and streamlined regulatory processes. The establishment of the D-8 Centre for SMEs in Nigeria and the D-8 Youth Council in Bangladesh will benefit greatly from your political support.

In conclusion, the D-8 Organization remains a beacon of prosperity and inclusive economic development for the Global South. With collective commitment, we can bring tangible socio-economic progress to our nations. My team and I at the D-8 Secretariat stand ready to facilitate this noble quest.

I am confident that under the leadership of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the D-8 Organization will continue advancing its goals. I extend my best wishes to my successor from Pakistan, who will assume office on 1 January 2026.

Finally, I express my heartfelt appreciation to all leaders and participants at this Summit and extend our gratitude to the Republic of Türkiye for their generosity in hosting the Secretariat in Istanbul.

Long live the D-8 Organization, and may our member states prosper together.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Prabowo Subianto



Bismillahirrohmanirrohim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

- **His Excellency Abdel Fattah el-sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt**
- **Honourable Heads of State and Government of the D-8 organization,**
- **Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of D-8,**
- **Distinguished Guests of Honor of the D8:**
 - ✓ **His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine;**
 - ✓ **His Excellency Najib Mikati, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon**
 - ✓ **His Excellency Ali Asadov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
 - ✓ **His Excellency Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the OIC;**
 - ✓ **His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States**
- **Distinguished representative of the delegation of the United Nations**

Thank you, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi for the warm welcome and generous hospitality given to us the delegates to the D8 Summit 2024. I also commend the Secretary-General of the D-8, Ambassador Imam, for effective leadership in guiding this Summit.

In a world often shaped by the few, this Summit highlights our collective power as a transformative force. We must realize that the D-8 indeed holds immense potential. Together, the D-8 represents the third-largest economic bloc globally, with a combined GDP of USD 4.81 trillion in 2023. Price Waterhouse Coopers predicts all D-8 member countries will rank among the 25 largest economies by 2050.

Another vast potential that we often forget is our common maritime resources. With access to major oceans of the world, such as the Atlantic, Mediterranean, the Indian, and the Pacific Oceans, all D-8 countries are uniquely positioned to harness the benefits and the resources of the blue economy.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Prabowo Subianto

This is a very strategic collaboration. For example, the total value of the fishery industries in the world is USD 600 billion. We can imagine if we concentrate in making the most of the blue economy, our various economies will really be strong.

But to give more tangible benefits for our people, D-8 must deepen economic integration and cooperation. Among others: (1) we must implement effectively of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between us; (2) we also must establish a streamlined and simplified customs procedures within intra-D8 trade; (3) we must also create halal value chains through a strengthened D-8 Halal Economy Network.

Excellencies,

The D-8 must be more than an economic bloc—it is a movement of the Global South. Therefore, we must also continue advocating for a Fairer Global Order on the basis of international law, inclusivity, fairness, and shared prosperity.

Achieving this requires greater representation of the Global South in decision-making processes. For that D-8 must be united, we must work together to be united. We must leave behind our differences; we must look for the greater good of our people. Without unity, without integration we will be weak. And if we are weak, we will be exploited. That is the law of history.

In this spirit, Indonesia reaffirms our commitment to strengthening the D-8, and also, we must consider if it is not wise for us now, to invite more members to join the D-8. There must be strength. Strength in number, strength in unity. Let us look towards the future, let us learn from the present. Once again, we must learn from the geopolitical situation that is happening around us now.

Without unity, without overcoming our differences, we cannot be strong. We say that we support Palestine. But if we are weak, how can we support Palestine.

Therefore, Excellencies,

Let us harness our collaboration. We must drive economic growth; we must work to achieve industrial and technological strength; and we must make the Muslim world a prosperous world, overcoming poverty.

Let us unite to make the D-8 a catalyst for positive change to be a champion for the aspirations of the Global South and for the Muslim ummah. As Indonesia prepares to face the future, we reaffirm our steadfast commitment to this shared vision. Let us transform the D-8 into a beacon of hope for all of our nations and the world.

I thank you.

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

**Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
H.E. Dr.Masoud Pezeshkian**



**In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
Your Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt ;**

At the outset, I would like to thank Your Excellency for hosting the 11th important summit of the D-8 leaders, and I would like to express my pleasure and that of my accompanying delegation in being present in the brotherly country of Egypt. I would also like to thank our dear colleagues in the D-8 Commission and appreciate the efforts of the honorable Secretary General, Mr. Imam, and his esteemed colleagues in the Secretariat.

Undoubtedly, important manifestations of the history of human civilization have taken place in the land of Egypt and along the great Nile River, and the historical and enchanting beauties of this Islamic land have also depicted a masterpiece of combining ancient civilization and rich Islamic culture. I hope that during the Egypt presidency over the D-8 organization, we will witness the deepening of friendship and brotherhood among the members and taking of serious steps in the process of increasing multilateral cooperation to achieve the visions envisaged in the D-8.

Excellencies;
Distinguished Participants;

Before starting the discussion, I would like to point out that, in relation to the recent developments in the West Asian region and the changes that have transpired, it has been more than 14 months since the West Asia, especially Gaza and southern Lebanon, and now Syria, have been subjected to widespread attacks by the usurping Zionist Regime. The merciless killing of civilians and the bloodshed of women, children, and people affected by war and widespread terror have revealed new dimensions of its illegitimate goals in spreading insecurity. And now it is our religious, legal, and human duty to prevent further harms to our loved ones in the crisis-stricken regions by greater convergence and precise and immediate practical measures.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Dr.Masoud Pezeshkian

Dear Colleagues,
The Honorable Secretary General

For the time being, the importance of maintaining friendship and creating new ties of multilateral cooperation among Islamic countries based on development and collective interests is felt more than ever. Moving towards multilateralism and creating smart economic and trade networks among countries is a correct trend and derived from the will of the majority of countries.

The theme of today's summit has been chosen very intelligently. Youths are undoubtedly valuable assets, and planning to develop their capacities is the most productive investment in line with our national and collective interests. Given the increasing prosperity of industrial fields and entering into new areas of technology, it is necessary to seriously review the way of formulating future cooperation. Knowledge-based applications and moving towards development are areas in which young people are the flag-bearers, and the D-8 countries, by benefiting from their extensive human and infrastructural capabilities, can gain a distinguished position in the process of integrating industry and technology.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing interest in exchanging experience and sharing its achievements, will support any initiative and proposal that will lead to synergy in economic fields and paving the way for youth to enter development-oriented programs. We are also ready to implement joint measures within the framework of D-8, such as establishing a "D-8 joint bank of ideas and capital", "establishing joint science and technology hubs and parks", "holding scientific and technological tours and meetings", "granting sabbaticals, scholarships and professor-student exchanges", "providing entrepreneurship facilities for youth", "investing in small and medium-sized enterprises to solve youth employment problems", and also holding exhibitions of knowledge-based achievements and products, in cooperation with members, to collectively support young entrepreneurs. The D-8 Technology Transfer Network, which is located in the Pardis Technology Park in Tehran, can help advance joint programs in the field of the youth.

Dear Colleagues,

Trade between the D-8 member states is far from the organization's Vision 2030. We hope that during Egypt's presidency over the organization, we will witness enhancement in trade among members. In this direction, barter can play a decisive role in increasing trade between members.

On the other hand, the geographical distances in the D-8 environment indicate the importance of development of transit routes for the flourishing of economic and trade cooperation. In addition to the strategic importance of this issue, the members' attention should be focused on areas that, while contributing to sustainable growth and collective interests, will allow us to be more resilient to possible shocks in the future.

**Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
H.E. Dr.Masoud Pezeshkian**

In this regard, it is necessary for the members to collectively adopt new technologies such as artificial intelligence and manage their negative consequences. For this reason, I propose that the summit issue the necessary instructions for the optimal use of new technologies to enhance the resilience of the economies of the member countries.

The first meeting of the "Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology of D-8", is soon to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we can begin working on this guideline with the cooperation of the members. I believe that knowledge-based start-ups and new technologies, including artificial intelligence, have opened new suitable avenues for the cooperation of the youth of Islamic countries, who, while preserving their indigenous and religious values, take great steps towards the development and progress of their countries and societies.

Excellency the Chairman

In conclusion, I express hope for deepening of intra-organizational relations. I am confident that in the new period and with the competent management and leadership of Egypt, the D-8 organization will take important steps towards development. Once again, I would like to thank the esteemed government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting us.

I wish you all the best

**Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Türkiye
H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**



BİSMİLLAHİRRAHMANİRRAHİM

**Cumhurbaşkanı Sayın Abdülfettah es-Sisi,
Saygıdeğer Devlet ve Hükümet Başkanları,
Kıymetli katılımcılar...**

**Sizleri en kalbi duygularımla, hasretle, muhabbetle selamlıyorum.
ESSELAMU ALEYKÜM VE RAHMETULLAHİ VE BEREKATUH.**

11'inci zirvemiz vesilesiyle sizlerle bir araya gelmekten memnuniyet duyuyor, istişarelerimizin ülkelerimiz ve tüm insanlık için hayırlı olmasını diliyorum.

Bu vesileyle, D-8'in kuruluşuna liderlik eden merhum Başbakan Prof. Dr. Necmeddin Erbakan'ı rahmetle yad ediyorum.

Misafirperverlikleri için Mısır Cumhurbaşkanı Sayın Sisi'ye, toplantının organizasyonu için de Sekreteryaya teşekkür ediyorum.

Yaklaşık çeyrek asırlık geçmişe sahip Teşkilatımızın kuruluş felsefesinde yer alan barış, diyalog, işbirliği, adalet ve eşitlik kavramlarının önemi bugün daha iyi anlaşılıyor.

Artan çatışmalar, krizler ve savaşlar karşısında maalesef küresel güvenlik ve istikrarı teminle görevli kurumlar sorumluluklarını yerine getiremiyor.

Gelinen noktada sadece siyasi sistemin değil, temelleri İkinci Dünya Savaşı sonrasında atılan ekonomik nizamın da ciddi sarsıntılar geçirdiğini görüyoruz.

Küresel iktisadi kurumlar cari gerçeklere ya uyum sağlayamıyor, ya da ihtiyaç duyulan desteği vermekte zorlanıyor.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Böylesine hassas bir dönemde gerçekleştirdiğimiz Zirvemizde alacağımız kararların, sorunların çözümünde bize rehberlik etmesini ümit ediyorum.

Toplantımızın temasını teşkil eden "GENÇLER ve KOBİ'LER" ülkemizin son 22 yıldır ekonomi alanında kaydettiği ilerlemenin de lokomotifi oldu.

Üye ülkelerimizdeki toplamda 1 milyardan fazla nüfusumuzun çok büyük kısmı gençlerden oluşuyor.

Avrupa dahil, batıda nüfusun giderek yaşlandığı bir dönemde, genç nüfus iyi değerlendirilebildiğinde bizler için çok büyük bir avantajdır.

Türkiye olarak, sürdürülebilir kalkınmanın ancak gençlerin ekonomiye azami iştirakiyle mümkün olabileceğini biliyoruz.

Gençlerimizin teknolojik ve dijital becerileri ile girişimci ruhlarını geliştiren proje ve programlar yürütüyoruz.

Dünyanın en büyük havacılık, uzay ve teknoloji festivali olan TEKNOFEST'e "En Az Gelişmiş Ülkeleri" de dahil etmek suretiyle küresel adalet ve gelişime katkıda bulunmayı hedefliyoruz.

Keza, KOBİ'lerin desteklenmesinde D-8'in mevcut imkanlarını daha etkin şekilde kullanmamız gerektiğini düşünüyorum.

Ticaretten yatırıma, kırsal kalkınmadan tarıma, turizmden enerji ve ulaştırmaya kadar çeşitli alanlarda KOBİ'leri bilgilendirici programlar düzenlenmesinde fayda vardır. KOBİ'lerin, Teşkilatımızın en önemli girişimlerinden olan "Tercihli Ticaret" uygulamalarından azami derecede istifade edebilmeleri için programlar geliştirilmesi gerekiyor. Bu programlar, ülkelerimiz arasındaki ticarete de önemli katkı sunacaktır.

Mısır'ın da "Tercihli Ticaret Anlaşmasını" onaylamasıyla birlikte, artık çok daha geniş bir çerçevede anlaşmanın uygulanması mümkün olacaktır.

Kıymetli Kardeşlerim...

Teşkilatımızı büyütmek suretiyle, etki alanını daha da geliştirmek için yeni üye ve ortaklara kapımızın açık olması gerekiyor.

Bu noktada Endonezya Cumhurbaşkanıamızın talebini ben de aynen paylaşıyorum.

Son yıllarda önemli atılımlar gerçekleştiren Azerbaycan'ın, Teşkilatımıza üye olmasıyla birlikte bugün, hamdolsun, dünden daha güçlüyüz. Kardeş Azerbaycan'a D-8 Ailemize hoş geldiniz diyorum.

Statement by the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Saygıdeğer Katılımcılar...

Bölgemizde ve dünyada önemli hadiseler cereyan ediyor.

Filistin ve Lübnan'daki duruma dair görüşlerimizi bu konulara hasredilen ikinci oturumda sizlerle ayrıca paylaşacağım.

Suriye'deki son dönemde yaşanan gelişmeleri de aynı zaviyeden, Suriye halkının çıkarını önceleyen bir yaklaşımla çok yakından takip ediyoruz.

Suriye halkının birliğe, dayanışmaya, uzlaşya ve savaş yorgunu ülkelerini süratle ayağa kaldırmaya ihtiyaçları var.

Biz de komşuları ve kardeşleri olarak, bu zorlu süreçte Suriye'de istikrarın sağlanmasına katkı sunmaya çalışıyoruz.

Suriye'nin toprak bütünlüğünün ve birliğinin yeniden tesisine atfettiğimiz önemi her fırsatta vurguluyoruz.

Tüm dini, mezhebi ve etnik grupların yan yana, sulh içinde yaşadığı, terörden arındırılmış bir Suriye'nin inşası, en samimi beklentimizdir.

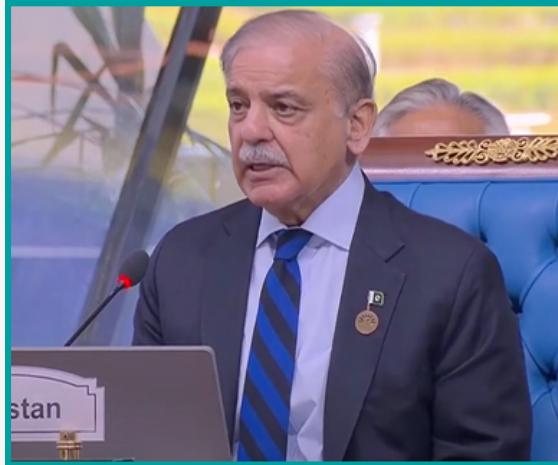
D-8 üyeleri olarak bu zorlu mücadelelerinde Suriyeli kardeşlerimizin yanında olmamız gerektiğine inanıyorum.

Sözlerime son verirken, D-8 Genel Sekreteri Büyükelçi ABDÜLKADİR İMAM ile Sekretarya personelini çalışmalarından ötürü tebrik ediyorum.

Pakistan tarafından müteakip D-8 Genel Sekreteri olarak belirlenen Büyükelçi SÜHEYL MAHMUD kardeşime başarılar diliyor, Zirvemizin hayırlara vesile olmasını temenni ediyorum.

Statement in English: [Details of the Statement in English](#)

**Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif**



**H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt,
Heads of State and Government,
Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of D-8,
Esteemed Delegates,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very good morning!

I am delighted to visit this beautiful and historic city of Cairo, and to be among friends, brothers and sisters.

I congratulate the Egyptian government and its leadership on hosting the D-8 Summit - an important platform for development cooperation between like-minded countries.

The theme of this year's Summit - "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Shaping the Economy of the Future", is timely and serves as the blueprint for our collective growth in the 21st century.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Youth and SMEs are key drivers of economic development. Youth brings energy, fresh ideas, and creativity, whereas SMEs create jobs, foster innovation, and promote local entrepreneurship. It is vital for building a strong and inclusive economy.

By investing in both, we can build resilient economies that are ready for the global challenges of today and tomorrow.

For D-8 Member-States, empowering youth and entrepreneurship presents an opportunity to harness the power of our young population and create environments where small businesses can thrive.

Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

The D-8 can lead this process by fostering partnerships, supporting entrepreneurship, and prioritizing education and skills development, thereby ensuring that our future is in the hands of an empowered generation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

For Pakistan, investing in youth and supporting SMEs, is crucial for our socio-economic development and progress. With over 60% of our population under the age of 30, we possess immense potential for innovation and growth. But unlocking this potential requires providing the right skills, opportunities, and resources. By fostering an environment where youth-led businesses can thrive, Pakistan is seeking to harness its demographic advantage and shape a vibrant economic future.

Through the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, my Government is committed to providing quality education, create jobs, and offer meaningful opportunities. Our goal is to empower youngsters with the skills and confidence they need to become self-reliant and contribute to Pakistan's growth.

Since 2013, this program has distributed over 600,000 laptops, awarded 216,151 scholarships, and trained over 100,000 individuals in demand-driven skills such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and cyber security. We have also created the Digital Youth Hub, as a one-stop shop for education, employment, engagement, and environmental opportunities.

Pakistan is home to one of the largest freelance communities in the world. We are focusing on IT training at a mass scale to equip our youth with the necessary tools to connect with the digital world and capitalize on those opportunities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

My government has launched several initiatives to empower young entrepreneurs, both men and women, as well as to support small businesses.

The Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme has disbursed billions in loans, enabling young Pakistanis to start and scale their own businesses. The State Bank of Pakistan's SME Finance Scheme offers concessionary financing, especially for SMEs in the manufacturing sector, helping them grow and create jobs.

Additionally, Startup Pakistan aims to foster a vibrant startup ecosystem, providing mentorship, funding, and incubation opportunities for innovative, tech-driven ideas.

With interest-free loans and favourable financing terms, we are helping youngsters start and grow their businesses, even in challenging times.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) provides training, mentorship, and funding opportunities to empower young individuals.

Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

We recognize and support our young innovators through the National Innovation Award, by offering funding to promising startups to help job seekers become job creators. We are also in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, USAID, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP, and ITC, to promote social inclusion, sustainability, innovation, formalization, and internationalization in Pakistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today's Summit offers a valuable opportunity for D-8 countries to share best practices, pool resources, and create programs that support youth and SMEs across borders. Competitions such as Regional Innovation Award, can promote eco-innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship in all our countries.

D-8 Countries also need to foster partnerships through mentorship and training to bridge skill gaps, improve employability, and bring fresh ideas into our economies.

Additionally, initiatives such as the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D8-TTEN) facilitate the exchange of technology, research, and knowledge among member states. This will help us to bridge the technological gap, drive sustainable development and strengthen key sectors such as agriculture, energy, and manufacturing.

Pakistan actively supports, and will continue to encourage, such initiatives through the D-8 platform to enhance South-South cooperation and to promote collective progress.

Excellencies,

Connectivity has become a defining feature of the modern global economy and is rightly hailed as a vehicle for peace and prosperity. As emphasized in the Dhaka Declaration earlier in 2021, we need to explore the possibilities of developing and enhancing transport connectivity among D-8 member states, for intra-trade facilitation.

Connectivity initiatives can be a force multiplier, not only for enhancing trade, but also for building efficient transport corridors and reliable supply chains. We need to explore initiatives focusing on connectivity, across the D-8 member countries to open up new avenues for trade, investment, job creation and shared prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Investing in youth and SMEs is more than just a strategy. It is a responsibility. Let us pledge today to elevate youth voices, empower their dreams, and support their enterprises.

By doing so, we will not only shape the economy of the future but also build a legacy of hope, prosperity, and resilience for generations to come.

I thank you.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Chief Adviser of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
H.E. Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus**



**President of Arab Republic of Egypt, Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi,
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
D-8 Secretary General,
Assalamu Alaikum.**

I am delighted to join the 11th Summit of the D-8 Countries. Being in the fabled city of Cairo - at the confluence of history and heritage - is always a privilege and a delight.

My warmest felicitations to His Excellency President El-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on your election.

Excellencies,

We meet at a time when the world is witnessing unprecedented challenges. Yet, so many opportunities beckon us as well.

The theme of the Summit, focusing on youth and the SMEs, aptly resonate with our shared aspirations.

Each of our countries has sizable youth population. Median age in Bangladesh, for instance, is just 27 years. Every year, around two and a half million young people enter the labour market. In a private sector driven economy, as we endeavour to get them fit for the market or, encourage them to emerge as agile entrepreneurs, we see how emergence of technologies is posing challenges and opportunities like never before.

Manufacturing landscape in our countries has millions of workers who generally have low skills. But, the manufacturing and service economy of tomorrow is fast transforming, largely riding on artificial intelligence, machine learning, data-driven tools and applications. In Bangladesh, where agriculture is still a critical mainstay for the society and economy, we see how children of the majority of small farmers are little interested to pursue back-breaking, risky and often uncertain farming-on-field the ways their parents took upon as a matter of tradition.

Statement by the Hon'ble Chief Adviser of the People's Republic of Bangladesh H.E. Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus

Travelling to rural Bangladesh, even across Asia, Africa and Arab world, I see how millions of today's youth are fast embracing technology and innovation, in everything around – either to turn around long-persistent challenges or, eke out newer opportunities that many thought impossible even few years before. Often, the younger folk show uncanny imagination in tacking intractable climatic stress on-the-field. I particularly underline this as our agriculture and food are changing about securing our economies, and creating wealth, within our own societies, with little outside inputs.

This brings into our consideration the millions of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Most of the SMEs thrive within informal economy. They aspire to grow and connect to global supply chain. Most often, they lack formal structure, access to institutional finance or support architecture and are unfamiliar with market norms-practices-standards. Yet, I see how amazingly capable and competitive the SMEs are. In the D-8 countries, collectively we possess enough of wealth, even in private philanthropy, to stand by these scores of SMEs. With our modest support, we can shape a virtuous 'cycle of good', for them and for our people. We need to let money flow to them, through de-risking finance, for instance.

Beyond what we discuss, let us, the D-8 Governments, convene candid, result-oriented conversation involving communities of youth – startups – business – finance; and see if we can carve out new platform amongst them. Bangladesh would be ready to take such an initiative forward; and convene a first multi-stakeholders meet in 2025.

Excellencies,

The ways the 'world of work' is evolving fast as the world of youth entrepreneurship, the D-8 countries have to re-invent 'learning' to make room for your boys and girls to become leaders of the economy.

In our countries, we have great heritage, wisdom and accomplishments. We have to see how we can blend and build on those. We are yet to take full advantages of the digital revolution that has been with us for years. Now that using AI is here, let us think if we can leapfrog and catch up with the disruptions, to the advantage of our entrepreneurial boys and girls.

As way forward, I would like to propose two specific actions, for our consideration.

One, let us build and deepen functional, impact-driven connects between our Universities and equivalent knowledge institutions, particularly focused on preparing boys and girls into entrepreneurial other than its sake. Applied Science disciplines. We have to bring the entrepreneurs and higher learning much closer than what is today. Our aim should be to generate knowledge output that can produce global secure business and industry from leaders of D8 countries fiercely competitive global market place, with our niche. If this asks to re-look at the D-8 trade and investment frameworks afresh, we should do so. Transforming the business to impact on peoples' lives, not just an occupation to be our wealth. They will engage in social business to create a new civilization.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Chief Adviser of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
H.E. Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus**

Second, for years, we tried to impart basic education and skills to millions in our countries through conventional in-person institutional architecture. In a 1.2 billion people, so often that is an increasingly daunting task. To reach 'scale', we tried through distance learning, for instance. We need to think deeper as to how to skill millions of young adults in workplace where right attitudes – values – ethics matter as much as hard skills. And, then we also confront the challenge to re-skill many millions at different vocational streams, on a continuous basis. Now that basic AI-based tools and applications are accessible, let's think of a cooperative learning agenda that can complement our national undertakings.

Excellencies,

As we adopt the Cairo Declaration and the Summit outcome reflecting our collective aspiration and shared commitment to addressing pressing issues, I may call upon Excellencies to re-look at our collective agenda, afresh.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria**

H.E. Ambassador Yusuf M. Tuggar



**Your Excellency, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairman of the
D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Honourable Ministers,
Secretary-General of the D-8 Organisation,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to be part of the 11th Summit of the D-8 Organisation, being held in this historic city. My delegation and I are profoundly grateful for the warm hospitality extended to us by the host Government and the very friendly people of Egypt. We are sincerely appreciative of your generosity.

I also want to acknowledge the exceptional service rendered to the D-8, by Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqudir Imam, the Secretary-General of the Organisation. Nigeria appreciates your hard work and achievements and we are proud of your performance.

Today, we come together under the theme, "Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy". This theme reflects our aspirations and emphasises the urgent need for strategic action in today's rapidly evolving world. As we all know, a well informed and technically capable youth population is the greatest asset of any country.

In Nigeria for example over 60% of the population is over the age of 25. This demographic shift presents both a significant opportunity and a formidable challenge. By investing in education, training and capacity building of a young people, we can engender a culture of innovation and growth that will elevate our economies.

Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E. Ambassador Yusuf M. Tuggar

Mr. Chairman,

Deliberate investment in our youths is a precondition for sustainable peace and security in our communities, as well as the development of our respective national economies. We must therefore, prioritize initiatives that promote entrepreneurship among youth and equip them with the right skills that are suitable for effective participation in today's global digital economic systems.

This can be achieved through partnerships with educational institutions, private sector and other international organizations with focus on enhancing entrepreneurial education and vocational training.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) have remained a catalyst for job creation in developing economies on all necessary effort must be sustained towards the consolidation of the SMEs as primary enebalers of sustainable growth and development of our economies.

In Nigeria, SMEs play a crucial role in job creation and economic growth, yet they face challenges such as limited access to capital, inadequate infrastructure and regulatory obstacles. In addressing these obstacles, we have formulated a national policy on SMEs (reviewed every four years) with the objective of sustaining vibrant SMEs sub-sector to be the major driver of national economic growth and employment generation.

Our national SMEs policy seeks to overcome the challenges of SMEs in Nigeria through seven broad programmes covering (i) financing, (ii) institutional, legal and regulatory framework, (iii) skills development, (iv) technology, research and development, (v) extension of support services, (vi) marketing and (vii) infrastructure and cost of doing business.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen

The D-8 Organisation a veritable framework for Member States, to collectively confront any challenge capable of undermining our resolve towards not creating a better future for our youth, but also entreacnching a solid foundation for sustainable growth and development in our countries.

In support of SMEs development in D-8 Member States, I would like to reiterate Nigeria's interest to host the D-8 SMEs Centre, as plans by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agencies of Nigeria (SMEDAN) are nearing completion for the Centre's launch in early 2025.

Mr. Chairman,

To achieve our Organisation's objectives, we must ensure sustained funding, to provide adequate financial resources for the smooth operation of this esteemed multilateral platform. I also call on Member States to facilitate effective knowledge sharing, to boost trade and economic development, thereby strengthening our cooperation. In this regard, I urge Member States to support the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI).

**Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria
H.E. Ambassador Yusuf M. Tuggar**

In accordance with the principles of this Organisation and in support of the joint declaration of the extraordinary meeting of the D-8 Council of Ministers on the situation in Gaza, which is in line with Nigeria's position, I call on all Member States of this Organisation to redouble efforts towards achieving a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question on the basis of a two-State solution.

To energise our resolve for shared prosperity among countries of the global south, through cooperation and partnerships in the face of ever-changing geopolitical dynamics, I wish to encourage us to accord the desired attention to the expansion of our membership, in a manner that aligns with our fundamental aspirations.

Your Excellencies,

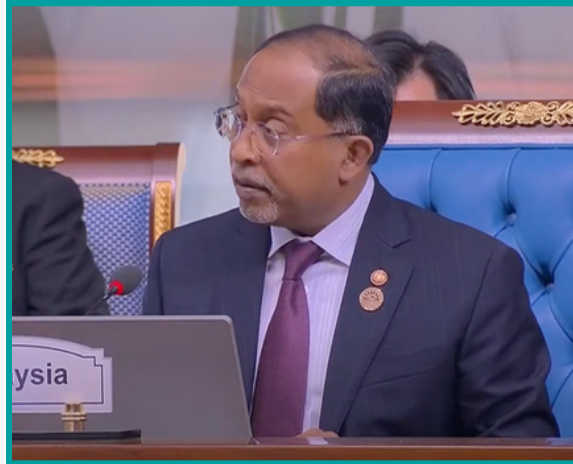
Let us commit to the ideals of this Organisation, ensuring that our actions reflect our vision for a peaceful and prosperous future. Nigeria's dedication to the success of the D-8 remains unwavering and we will continue to champion the objectives of the Organisation. In this regard, Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to hosting the first D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Youth and other D-8 activities.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, we are ready to collaborate with one and all, and strengthen our commitment to investing in our youth and supporting our SMEs. Together, we can build an inclusive and resilient economic future that transcends borders and uplifts all our people.

I Thank you.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia
H.E. Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir**



**The Honourable Abdel Fatah El-Sisi
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chair of the D-8 Summit
Honourable Heads of State and Heads of Government of Developing Eight Member States,
His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary General of D-8
Excellencies,**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

On behalf of the PM Anwar Ibrahim, let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to The Honourable President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation during our stay in this magnificent city.

I would like to congratulate the Arab Republic of Egypt on its assumption of D-8 Chairmanship and for convening this 11th D-8 Summit.

Excellencies,

The D-8 was established back in June 1997, with the eight countries believing in working on one platform that focuses on economic development and international cooperation. It was born as a strategic grouping not as an alternative, but as a platform of like-minded countries, with one goal, and that is to improve our economic standing.

Our countries are blessed with bountiful resources and a vast amount of land. We have an abundant, talented, skilled labour force and diversified human capital. With a total population of 1.2 billion people or 15% of the world population, the market of the D-8 Member States is estimated to be valued at USD 2.1 trillion, accounting for 6.88% of the global trade total, which stands at USD 30.5 trillion in 2023. Unfortunately, our trading among the D-8 members are accounted at approximately USD 147 billion only.

Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia H.E. Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir

As a grouping that addresses the social economics development of its Member States, and based on the fact that the global economy has shifted its direction, it is timely for us to relook into the areas of cooperation, and the economic achievements we have achieved thus far.

The future economic sectors are the halal-based industry, digital economy and green economy; where AI and sustainable, renewable energy are at the core of every discussion at every economic platform. These emerging economic sectors are poised for the D-8 countries to seize the opportunity. We must take decisive action to optimise our economic prospects in the digital economy and green economy without hesitation, or risk being left behind.

Hence, this is why the theme of today's Summit is befitting, in order for us to move ahead. "Investing in Youth and Supporting SMEs: Shaping Tomorrow's Economy", would allow us to deliberate on strategies that leverage the immense potential of our youth to drive the economies of D-8 Member States forward.

Excellencies,

The theme of this Summit also aligns closely with the priorities of the Malaysia Madani Government, which recognises that the future of the Malaysian economy relies on the readiness of its youth and the resilience of its Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Our youth represent the most valuable resource of our nations. Amidst the uncertainties, vulnerabilities, and disruptions of our time, their potential remains boundless. In this age of artificial intelligence, innovation, and disruptive technologies, it is essential that we not only equip our youth with technical skills but also nurture them into holistic individuals. A balanced education must integrate advanced competencies with moral and ethical values. Compassion, humanity, and the dignity of humankind should remain at the core of our education systems, for a society bereft of these values is a society adrift.

SMEs are the backbone of economic resilience and innovation. Within the D-8 framework, strengthening SMEs and fostering cross-border collaborations in emerging industries, such as the halal economy, agribusiness, green technologies, and digital solutions, can unlock unprecedented opportunities.

Excellencies,

The current global economic climate compels us to recalibrate our D-8 economic cooperation with a forward-looking vision. This recalibration must prioritise inclusivity and innovation, ensuring that no Member States or community is left behind. Our plans must address:

Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia H.E. Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir

- i. Knowledge sharing to accelerate industrialisation;
- ii. Digital transformation and the integration of disruptive technologies into SMEs; and
- iii. Cross-border trade facilitation within D-8 markets to create seamless movement of goods and services.

Excellencies,

Malaysia supports the Cairo Declaration and the Joint Communiqué on the Situation in Palestine and Lebanon. The adoption of the Cairo Declaration affirms our commitment to D-8.

Additionally, by endorsing the Joint Communiqué, we reinforce our collective resolve and unity in advocating for the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people, who have faced unimaginable suffering, including indiscriminate killings and acts of genocide perpetrated by the domineering and oppressive regime of the Zionist Israel.

As a united bloc, we must rally together to provide scholarships, vocational training, and start-up programmes specifically tailored to empower Palestinian youth. Let us help them rebuild their futures and restore their dignity.

In conclusion, Malaysia reaffirms our unwavering commitment to the D-8 Organisation and stands prepared to work collaboratively and strategically with all Member States. Together, we aim to advance the organisation's objectives, fostering tangible improvements in the socio-economic well-being of our nations and their people.

Let us combine our efforts to work together and shape the future through:

- i. First: Cultivate a generation of innovation and compassionate leaders;
- ii. Second: Build resilient economies that thrive amidst uncertainty;
- iii. Third: Reinforce the bonds with solidarity, compassion and shared humanity, that define us part of a global community.

May the D-8 rise as a beacon of hope not just for ourselves, but for the world at large.

Thank you.

**Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan
H.E. Ali Asadov**



**Your Excellency, Mr. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi,
Esteemed Heads of State and Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset, we would like to thank the friendly and brotherly Arab Republic of Egypt for the invitation and great hospitality at the 11th Summit of the D-8 Economic Cooperation Organization.

First time, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr Ilham Aliyev participated in the D-8 Summit held in Istanbul at the invitation of President Mr Recep Tayyib Erdogan.

Our participation at today's Summit has special historic significance. Thus, today, the member states, based on friendship and trustful relations with Azerbaijan, took a unanimous decision to elect our country as a member of D-8. We are grateful to all the member states for this. Azerbaijan will closely contribute to protecting the organization's fundamental principles and further deepening cooperation.

Dear Summit participants,

Against the backdrop of modern conflicts and political tensions, ensuring security and stability, developing mutually beneficial cooperation in our vast region is of paramount importance. In this regard, the Republic of Azerbaijan stands as one of the reliable regional centers with its geopolitical position, huge economic potential and modern transport infrastructure.

Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan has an important role in implementing critical energy projects and in developing international transport corridors.

Azerbaijan, along with successfully chairing a number of international organizations, contributes to solving global problems.

Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ali Asadov

Our country's four-year chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, the world's largest organization after the UN, as well as our chairmanship of the COP29, which is considered one of the prestigious events in the world, are a clear indicator of Azerbaijan's growing influence on the international arena.

Taking this opportunity, we express our gratitude to the D-8 member states for their important contribution to the work of COP29.

Esteemed Summit participants,

As it is well-known, Azerbaijan, by ending almost 30 years of Armenian occupation, has fully restored its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Armenia conducted ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis in the territories it had occupied, and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs. Urbicide, culturcide, and ecocide were carried out in our territories.

The cultural and religious heritage of the Azerbaijani people was destroyed. 65 mosques out of 67 in those territories were raised to the ground.

Currently, largescale restoration and construction work is underway in these territories, villages and cities are built from scratch. Thousands of former internally displaced persons have already returned to their ancestral lands.

The new realities open up unique opportunities for lasting peace and stability in the region, as well as for mutually beneficial cooperation. Azerbaijan is committed to the regional peace agenda and will continue its decisive steps in this direction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

D-8, whose member countries' population constitutes 60% of the world Muslims, plays an important role in Islamic solidarity.

Taking into consideration the growing Islamophobia, extremism, and radicalism in the world, it is important for our organization to unite efforts to strengthen Islamic solidarity.

Azerbaijan, throughout history, has played a bridge role between the East and the West, and has been one of the main cultural, religious, and civilization centers of the Islamic world. Our country has made great contributions to the formation of an environment of multiculturalism and tolerance, the establishment of intercultural dialogue, and the promotion of Islamic values in the world.

Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ali Asadov

Dear Summit participants,

Following the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, it is of utmost importance to restore peace and stability in the country and put an end to the civil conflict. Azerbaijan reiterates its support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria.

We hope that the challenges will be resolved in accordance with the will of the Syrian people, as well as through domestic political dialogue.

Azerbaijan will not spare its support in addressing the humanitarian problems faced by the Syrian people. Close contacts with the brotherly Republic of Türkiye to take practical steps in this direction are ongoing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Azerbaijan, which maintains friendly and brotherly relations with Muslim countries, will continue to make its valuable contribution to strengthening Islamic solidarity.

We are confident that the "2020-2030 Roadmap" and future strategies to be adopted will not only develop cooperation among the D-8 countries, but also serve to review existing international mechanisms in the conditions of a changing world.

Once again, we thank each and everyone of you for the decision to elect our country as a member of D-8.

We wish success to the Summit and in the future activities of the Organization.

Thank you for your attention!

Statements of the Special Guests at the 11th D-8 Summit



**Statement by the Hon'ble President of the State of Palestine,
H.E. Mahmoud Abbas**



**Statement by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon,
H.E. Najib A. Mikati**



**Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
H.E. António Guterres**



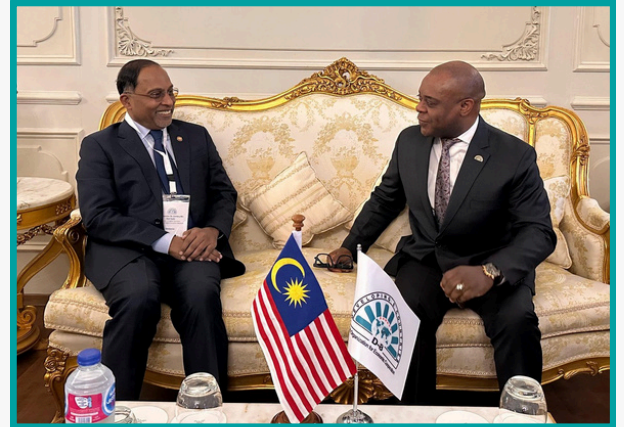
**Statement by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States,
H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit**



**Statement by the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic
Cooperation, H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha**

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE MALAYSIA'S MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

On the sidelines of the 21st Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers in Cairo on 18 December 2024, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Malaysia's Minister of Higher Education, H.E. Zambry Abd Kadir, as the Head of Delegation of Malaysia. Ambassador Imam highlighted key D-8 initiatives, emphasizing on economic potentials of the D-8's vast population, the strategic role of the halal economy, and the need to establish a Project Development Fund to support entrepreneurs and young business leaders in fostering intra-D8 trade.



He also praised Malaysia's active participation in the D-8, including the establishment of the D-8 Creative Economic and Financial Center, in collaboration with the Al-Hidayah Group of Malaysia.

H.E. Zambry Abd Kadir commended the D-8's role in advancing economic cooperation among member states. He reaffirmed Malaysia's steadfast support for the organization's initiatives to drive sustainable growth and development across D-8 countries.

AMBASSADOR IMAM HELD A BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN



On 19 December 2024, on the margins of the 11th D-8 Summit in Cairo, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a productive bilateral meeting with H.E. Masoud Pezeshkian, the Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In their discussions, President Pezeshkian stressed the importance of establishing a financial and monetary mechanisms to facilitate trade exchanges and joint investments among the member states of the D-8. He emphasized that such a mechanism is crucial for helping the organization achieve its goals and strengthen its collective potential. As a vast market, the President highlighted that the D-8 offers significant opportunities for member states to enhance trade cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation.

In response, Secretary-General Imam acknowledged Iran's essential role as a founding and active member of the organization, noting that two Iran-based institutes affiliated with D-8 are among the most active bodies within the organization: the D-8 TTEN and D-8 International University.

Furthermore, Ambassador Imam reiterated the importance of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), which has already come into force in Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Türkiye. He expressed optimism that Iranian businesses and economic players will leverage the opportunities provided by the agreement to contribute to the realization of the D-8 goals, for mutual prosperity.

SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

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



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a meeting with Mr. Ömer Faruk Tanriverdi, Deputy Director General of the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) for International Broadcasts, at the TRT headquarters in Ankara on 3 October 2024. They agreed to explore potential joint projects to enhance the visibility of the D-8 Organization.

Mr. Tanriverdi also outlined key events and programs TRT will organize in the last quarter of 2024, which would likely strengthen collaboration between the two organizations. This marks an exciting step toward increasing engagement and promoting the D-8's mission, globally.

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE RECEPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the reception organized by the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) in Ankara to mark the 15th Anniversary of the OTS establishment, on 3 October 2024.

The D-8 Secretary-General engaged in fruitful discussions with special guests and distinguished participants, including Türkiye's Interior Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister, exploring ways to enhance cooperation between D-8 and OTS. It was a valuable opportunity for networking and strengthening ties for D-8.



D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF KADIN OF INDONESIA



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Ms. Irawati Hermawan, a member of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) and the Indonesian Employers' Association (APINDO), to discuss the preparation of the D-8 Business Forum, to be organized in Jakarta on 11 October 2024.

The two sides finalized the preparation of the D-8 Business Forum, titled: "Strengthening Cooperation Between D-8 Member Countries, To Pursue World Economic Growth," which will be organized as part of the Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI2024), the largest business expo in Indonesia.

BUSINESS SECTORS IN INDONESIA PLEDGE TO PUSH THE D-8 AS A PLAYER IN GLOBAL TRADE

The business sectors in Indonesia have pledged to come together to make the grouping of D-8 countries a significant player in global trade. This was the outcome of the D-8 Business Forum, organized on 11 October 2024 by the Indonesian Employers' Association (APINDO), with the support of the Trade Ministry of Indonesia, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (KADIN), and the Padjadjaran University Alumni Association of Indonesia.

The D-8 Business Forum, titled 'Strengthening Cooperation Between D-8 Member Countries to Pursue Economic Growth', was held alongside the 39th Trade Expo, organized by the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, from 9-12 October 2024.



While addressing the crème de la crème of Businesspeople at the event, the D-8 Secretary-General stated that an expanded D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) among member countries, could unlock the potential of the Group of Nations, thus becoming a global economic powerhouse.

Speaking further, the D-8 Secretary-General identified technological innovation as crucial to support trade expansion among the D-8 member countries, adding that the need to implement the D-8 Visa Agreement, signed in 2001 among member countries to facilitate the movement of businesspeople, has become more urgent than ever before. In this regard, he underscored the urgent need for the private sector to strengthen the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8CCI) in the ongoing efforts to increase the intra-trade relations amongst member countries to meet the target as set out in the 2030 Decennial Road Map.



"I am deeply thankful to the Indonesian Government and APINDO for organizing the D-8 Business Forum at the Trade Expo Indonesia 2024. This Forum has produced substantive outcomes, and as a bonus, it afforded the D-8 exposure to a global audience," he said.

"Therefore, I am happy that this D-8 Forum is taking place, and I am looking forward to a similar forum being organized, more frequently, in other D-8 member countries," he concluded.

In his remarks at the Business forum, the Director General of the Indonesia Ministry of Trade and international trade negotiator, Mr. Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono, who represented the Indonesian Trade Minister, reiterated Indonesia's commitment to boost the intra-D-8 trade relations amongst member countries to a higher level. He said that Indonesia had started operationalizing the D-8 PTA, in conducting trade with other members of the Organization since June 2024. He cited that his Ministry had issued more than 70 D-8 PTA certificates of origin, valued at US\$ 4.5 million, within four months.



Mr. Witjaksono further elaborated on Indonesia’s readiness to support the expansion of the D-8 PTA to cover more areas. He argued that upgrading the D-8 PTA to a more comprehensive trade instrument was timely.

In her welcome address, Ms. Shinta Wijata Kamdani, the Chairwoman of APINDO, laid out Indonesia’s strategies to strengthen its trade performance by empowering SMEs, facilitating innovations, and supporting businesses to grow. She also emphasized Indonesia’s priority to achieve equitable and sustainable growth.

Besides KADIN, several other partners, such as the Nigella Group of Türkiye and the Padjadjaran University Alumni Association, participated in the Business Forum. Representatives from all D-8 countries, including top management from the member states’ chambers of commerce and industry, participated in the Forum.

During the forum, two plenary sessions were held, and each session discussed ways and means of increasing intra-trade relations among the D-8 member states. Each presented ideas on how to strengthen D-8 trade relations, including facilitating business interactions, movement of businesspeople, introducing APEC’s travel card mechanism, and strengthening the D-8 chambers of commerce and industry.

According to its website, Trade Expo Indonesia is an international B2B-focused trade show designed to foster the growth of the nation’s export products and expand its export markets. The Expo has been a significant player and arguably the biggest trade show in South East Asia. The Expo was attended by more than 35,000 buyers and visitors from 120 countries, with the total transaction expected to reach US\$30 billion.

SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE OFFICIAL DINNER OF D-8 BUSINESS FORUM

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the official dinner of the D-8 Business Forum as a guest of honor, together with H.E. Jerry Sambuaga, the Vice Minister for Trade of the Republic in Jakarta on 11 October 2024.



The dinner was also attended by Ms. Shinta Wijaya Kamdani, the Chairwoman of the Indonesian Employers Association (APINDO), Ms. Irawati Hermawan, the Chair of the Organizing Committee, businesspeople, and representatives of the D-8 member states. The presence of the D-8 SG at the dinner afforded him the opportunity to initiate discussions on moving the D-8 trade relations forward with the Vice Minister of Trade, the Chairman of APINDO, and other dignitaries from the D-8 member states. He reiterated Indonesia’s crucial role in promoting trade cooperation, including the need for members of the D8 CCI to consider establishing a permanent Secretariat.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE IRF WORLD CONGRESS 2024

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the opening of the International Road Federation (IRF) World Congress 2024, upon the invitation of the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Türkiye. The Congress was hosted by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Türkiye in Istanbul on 15 October 2024.

The event, themed: 'Connecting to Empower the Mobility: Roads as Enablers of a Sustainable Future for All,' addressed key topics such as transportation technologies, infrastructure developments, and environmental sustainability. The event was a good opportunity to enhance relations between the D-8 Organization and IRF.



AMBASSADOR ISIAKA IMAM ATTENDED THE RECEPTION OF TRT



On the invitation of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the Reception on the 60th Anniversary of TRT, held at Esma Sultan Mansion, Istanbul, on 21 October 2024.

The event, organized to coincide with the General Assembly meeting of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), brought together representatives from member states' National News Agencies.

The attendance of SG provided a valuable opportunity for the D-8 to broaden its network and enhance its visibility within the global media.

SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE INVESTMENT AND TOURISM FORUM BY WTFI

Upon the invitation of the World Tourism Forum Institute (WTFI) and to further strengthen collaboration with the D-8 and its partners, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary General, attended the 'Investment and Tourism Forum,' held in the city of Kokand in the Fergana Region of Uzbekistan, on 18 October 2024.

During the visit, the Secretary-General held bilateral meetings with His Excellency Hayrulla Bozorov, the Governor of Fergana Region, as well as Mr. Bulut Bagci, the President of The World Tourism Forum Institute, wherein cooperation in the field of Tourism Development was discussed between the two sides.



D-8 SECRETARIAT ATTENDED THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ABU



In order to further expand and strengthen its collaboration with the media organizations, the D-8 Secretariat participated in the 60th Session of the General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), hosted by the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) in Istanbul on 23 October 2024.

Represented by the Director of the D-8 Secretariat, Mr. Punjul Nugraha, and Media Officer, Mr. Ilham Uludag, the delegation noted the topics discussed during the general assembly meeting, which centered around the nexus of AI, broadcasting, and society. It was established that collaboration with partners' media, including renowned unions, are crucial to elevating the D-8's visibility. It was said that implementing the earlier protocol of cooperation signed between the D-8 and TRT in 2022, would be mutually beneficial.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVED THE CEO OF NIGERIA'S DAR AL HALAL GROUP

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, received Mr. Muhammadu Dikko Ladan, the CEO of Nigeria's Dar Al Halal Group, on 30 October 2024 in Istanbul. During the visit, Mr. Ladan provided an in-depth briefing on his organization's structure, achievements, and future initiatives to foster halal trade across Nigeria and OIC countries.



In his response, Ambassador Imam emphasized the need to explore more avenues for collaboration amongst D-8 member countries in developing the Halal economy to enhance intra-trade relations, for mutual benefits.

It would be recalled that the meeting was to build on their earlier engagement during the D-8 SG's official visit to Nigeria in September 2024, to participate at the Halal Economy Forum, hosted by the Office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED AT THE 40th SESSION OF COMCEC



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated in the 40th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Türkiye officially opened and chaired in Istanbul on 4 November 2024.

Attending on the invitation of COMCEC, the D-8 SG noted the salient points discussed on the essence of digitalization of trade and payment systems in the OIC's framework. He also highlighted on the topics and issues that aligned with the D-8's endeavor to develop D-8 e-commerce, payment system, and barter trading.

MEETING OF DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION OF D-8 COUNTRIES HOLDS IN ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE

The 13th Meeting of Directors-General of Civil Aviation of the D-8 member countries was held in Antalya, Türkiye, on 13 November 2024. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) of the Republic of Türkiye hosted the meeting. Directors General of Civil Aviation Authorities from Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Türkiye attended the Meeting.

The Directors-General's Meeting was preceded by the Experts Working Group on Civil Aviation session, held on 12 November 2024.



In his address, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, underscored the transformative role of air transportation in global economic growth, which supports around 65 million jobs worldwide and carries approximately 4.5 billion passengers. Similarly, it contributes nearly US\$ 3 trillion to the worldwide economy, annually. He emphasized that recognizing its importance would foster D-8's connectivity and sustainable economic development, adding that civil aviation should be prioritized on the D-8 cooperation agenda.

The D-8 Secretary-General further emphasized the potential of civil aviation cooperation among the D-8 Member States, stating, "several D-8 countries possess a comparative advantage in aviation development, which presents a unique opportunity for shared growth and knowledge transfer within the organization."

In his remarks, Prof. Kemal Yüksek, Director of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) of the Republic of Türkiye, called for the strengthening of civil aviation cooperation among D-8 member states, noting that air transport is essential for connecting geographically separated countries.

Prof. Yüksek stated that Türkiye's commitment to sharing its advanced aviation practices developed under "Industry 5.0." aligned with ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative. Prof. Yüksek introduced Türkiye's New Civil Aviation Model, which leverages digitalization, big data, and artificial intelligence to enhance connectivity. He expressed Türkiye's desire to break down air transport barriers, within the D-8, thus facilitating seamless travel and closer ties among member nations.

Representatives from the Civil Aviation Authorities of D-8 Member State also delivered their statements and presentations, while outlining their respective activities, achievements, and future goals for civil aviation cooperation. These statements provided valuable insights into the diverse experiences and strategic approaches within the D-8 countries, thus enriching the collaborative spirit of the meeting.

The Directors General Meeting deliberated on a wide range of critical topics relevant to advancing the civil aviation sector within the D-8 region. These include air navigation and traffic management, commercial aviation issues, training and capacity building, safety and security issues, and national security auditor certification programs. These discussions aimed to facilitate experience sharing and foster a collaborative environment, where D-8 nations can leverage their strengths to enhance the regional aviation industry.



One of the key outcomes of the discussions was the proposal for a Multilateral Agreement on Air Services (MASA), among D-8 countries. This agreement, which is still a work in progress, is expected to create a unified framework that supports seamless air services across the member states, fostering stronger connections, trade opportunities, and enhanced regional cooperation.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Kemal Yüksek and Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, who reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen civil aviation cooperation, within the D-8 framework. They expressed optimism that the discussions and initiatives explored during the meeting would pave the way for enhanced connectivity, economic growth, and sustained development, within the D-8 region.

D-8 SECRETARIAT REPRESENTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SMIIC

The D-8 Secretariat, represented by Mr. Punjul Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations, attended the 19th Session of the Standard and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) General Assembly in Istanbul on 13 November 2024.



Attending upon the invitation from Mr. İhsan Övüt, the SMIIC Secretary General, the D-8 Secretariat took note of the SMIIC General Assembly's outcomes, including the election of some of the D-8 Member States, as members of the Board of Directors of SMIIC for 2025 - 2027, namely Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye.

SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM OF THE UN IN ANKARA



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated in the commemoration of the 79th Anniversary of the Establishment of the United Nations, hosted by Mr. Babatunde Ahonsi, the UN Resident Coordinator in Türkiye in Ankara on 14 November 2024.

The commemoration comes at a critical juncture in global affairs, where the UN's role, as the beacon of multilateralism, cannot be overemphasized.

SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 4th CONSULTATIVE FORUM OF RCO

To broaden opportunities for its program implementation, the D-8 Secretariat, represented by Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation and External Relations, participated in the 4th Consultative Forum of Regional Cooperation Organization (RCO) in the OIC region, organized by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 19-20 November 2024.



While participating as a panelist at the event, the Director presented D-8 initiatives to strengthen the economic corridor, among the D-8 Member States, to promote sustainable & inclusive development.

He highlighted the D-8 PTA, D-8 Customs Agreement, and various initiatives such as the D-8 special economic zone, barter trading, and payment system, to harness D-8 economic integration.

The RCO Forum picked the D-8 special economic zone as a recommended initiative, to follow-up on industrial policy initiatives activities for 2025-2026.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INVEST NIGERIA



On 11 December 2024, Mr. Seye Oyetade, Executive Director of Invest Nigeria, visited the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul, where he met with D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam.

During the meeting, the D-8 Secretary-General shared insights on the D-8 Organization's key initiatives relevant to InvestNigeria's activities. Mr. Oyetade also introduced Invest Nigeria's mission and efforts to enhance Nigeria's economic growth.

Both sides discussed the potential for signing an MoU, focusing on five strategic areas: trade, youth, SMEs, energy, and agriculture, to foster collaboration, for mutual benefits.

ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATED BODIES

D-8 NETWORK OF PIONEERS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (D-8 NPRI)

D-8 NETWORK OF PIONEERS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (D-8 NPRI) HOLDS ITS THIRD MEETING IN ILORIN, NIGERIA



The D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) convened its Third Meeting at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, from 24-27 November 2024. The meeting aimed to enhance collaboration, among the D-8 Member States, to advance multidisciplinary research across universities and research institutions, within the D-8 framework.

The event was attended by representatives of nominated universities from the D-8 Member States, thus reinforcing the network's commitment to fostering innovation and sustainable development. The Secretariat of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation was represented by its Director, Mr. Ahmar Ismail, while His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, addressed the meeting, virtually.

In his keynote statement, Ambassador Imam emphasized the critical role of the D-8 NPRI initiative in driving collaborative research and innovation, within the D-8 Member States. He presented four strategic recommendations aimed at achieving tangible outcomes for all members:

.Establishment of an E-Research Portal: A platform to connect governmental and private research institutions, across the D-8 Member States, enabling seamless collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Setting up of D-8 NPRI Collaborative Innovation Hubs: Dedicated hubs focused on priority sectors such as biotechnology, green energy, smart agriculture, and advanced manufacturing.

Formation of D-8 Innovation Challenge and Fellowship Program: Designed to attract and empower young researchers and graduate students from D-8 Member States, fostering the next generation of innovators.

Increase Investment in Research and Development: A call for Member States to allocate more resources to R&D, to drive sustainable economic growth and innovation.

Continuing, Ambassador Imam urged all participants at the meeting to actively contribute to transforming research outputs into innovations that can significantly benefit D-8 nations and their populations.

The Chair of the D-8 NPRI, represented by Comsats University, Islamabad, also shared its commitment to advancing the objectives of the D-8 NPRI and fostering an environment conducive to impactful research collaboration.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Egbewole, delivered an address where he emphasized the importance of partnerships that would benefit member states, communities, and students. He highlighted the need to leverage emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, gene editing, and quantum computing, to ensure the relevance of D-8 research initiatives, in shaping the future.



The meeting provided a platform to review the progress reports on the D-8 NPRI's past activities. Representatives from member states' universities shared their views, discussed achievements, and identified areas for improvement. The discussions culminated in outlining a roadmap for future activities, focusing on translating research into actionable innovations.

Under the leadership of Professor Egbewole, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, the meeting accomplished several significant milestones. These included the adoption of the D-8 NPRI Charter, Plan of Action, and the 2025 Calendar of Events, laying out a comprehensive framework for future initiatives. Additionally, two esteemed universities – the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) – were formally integrated into the D-8 NPRI.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) is a leading innovation-driven entrepreneurial research university in engineering, science, and technology. Established as a technical school in 1904 and achieving full university status in 1972, UTM has grown to become Malaysia's premier institution in these fields. UTM has two main campuses: the UTM Kuala Lumpur Campus in the heart of the capital city and the UTM Johor Bahru Campus in the Iskandar Malaysia region, a vibrant economic corridor in southern Peninsular Malaysia. The university is committed to producing a highly skilled technical and professional workforce for local industries, government agencies, and multinational companies.

With a vision to be recognized as a world-class entrepreneurial research university, UTM emphasizes innovation and practical engagement across all dimensions of its operations, including teaching, research, and community service. UTM is ranked among the top 100 universities globally in engineering and technology.

Located in the ancient city of Ilorin, approximately 500 kilometers from Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria, the University of Ilorin has a rich history. Established in 1975 by a Decree of the Federal Military Government, it has grown from three faculties in 1976 to 16 faculties and 130 academic departments, cementing its position as a leading institution of higher learning in Nigeria.

The D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) is a key initiative, under the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. The D-8 NPRI was established to promote interdisciplinary research and innovation, among its member states. The initiative underscores the D-8's commitment to sustainable economic development through science, technology, and innovation.

D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (D-8 IU)

As the year 2024 came to a close, D-8 International University (D-8IU) remained steadfast in its commitment to education, sustainability, and international collaboration. Through impactful webinars and an innovative summer camp, the university continued to foster knowledge exchange and community awareness. Below are some of the key highlights from the fourth quarter of 2024.



Welcome!



WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS: SHARING EXPERTISE ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

On November 5, 2024, D-8IU, in partnership with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia, hosted an insightful webinar on Groundwater Management.

Prof. Kholghi shared key insights into the challenges and solutions in groundwater management, drawing from real-world case studies and research. The session provided participants with a deeper understanding of sustainable water resource management, a crucial aspect of global environmental concerns.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS OF NATURE SUMMER CAMP (IFNSC) 2024: FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS



A major highlight of the quarter was D-8IU's collaboration with UiTM Malaysia for the International Friends of Nature Summer Camp (IFNSC) 2024. The camp, held from December 13 to December 22, 2024, took place, online, via Cisco Webex Meeting and YouTube Live Streaming.

The program featured educational sessions led by renowned experts, interactive Q&A discussions, and fun quizzes with prizes. Two distinguished speakers from D-8 International University contributed significantly: Prof. Majid Khayat Kholghi, Hydrogeologist from University of Tehran and Dr. Shahnaz Ghasemi, Adjunct Professor from D-8 International University.



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