



A quarterly newsletter of the

D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



This issue's highlight:

49th SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION
CONVENED IN ISTANBUL

THE 8th SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF D-8 PTA HELD IN NIGERIA

AMBASSADOR IMAM PARTICIPATED IN
THE 4th ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM

D-8 SME CENTER LAUNCHED IN ABUJA,
NIGERIA

D-8 AND ICYF INKED AN MOU

THE 4th D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TOURISM WAS HELD IN CAIRO, EGYPT

The 5th Senior Officials Meeting and 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism were successfully convened in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 5-6 May 2025, under the chairmanship of Egypt. Ministers and Senior Officials from D-8 Member States gathered and deliberated on strengthening tourism cooperation, within the group, in order to enhance the sector's contribution to sustainable development and economic growth.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished Readers,

It gives me a great pleasure to present the Second Edition of the D-8 Newsletter for April to June 2025. This period has been fruitful for our organization, characterized by a wide range of statutory meetings, ministerial engagements, sectoral activities, and international partnerships, all of which reaffirm the D-8's growing relevance as a platform for economic cooperation and sustainable development.

At the statutory level, we convened the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission in Istanbul, on 26 May, 2025. The Session brought together Commissioners and representatives from all Member States. The Commission deliberated on key administrative, financial, and organizational matters, charting creative ways to streamline our works and strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat. This meeting, once again, underscored the critical role of the Commission, as the executive organ of our organization, entrusted with guiding the strategic direction of the D-8.

Also, at the ministerial level, we witnessed a milestone in the tourism sector with the successful convening of the 5th Senior Officials Meeting and the 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism in Cairo, Egypt in May, under the able chairmanship of Egypt. The adoption of the 'Cairo Declaration on D-8 Tourism Cooperation 2025' and the institutionalization of the 'D-8 Tourism City of the Year' initiative, with the city of Antalya in Türkiye being the inaugural recipient, are testaments to our shared vision of harnessing tourism for sustainable growth, job creation, and cultural exchange, across the D-8 community.

Our engagements extended well beyond statutory processes. I was honored to represent the D-8 at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, in April, 2025, where we deepened our cooperation with UNIDO and UNCTAD in areas such as investment treaty reform, agricultural modernization, and industrial collaboration. I also had the privilege of attending the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in April, in Antalya, Türkiye. where the D-8's voice resonated in global discussions on peace, diplomacy, and digital transformation. These interactions reinforced the importance of dialogue, inclusivity, and partnership, in addressing global challenges and creating opportunities, for shared prosperity.



Dear Readers,

Education and youth development also featured prominently during this quarter. The University of Ilorin, one of the leading universities in Nigeria and a member of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation, invited me to deliver a keynote address at the International Conference on Globalizing Education, hosted by the University in June, 2025. Our deliberations highlighted the importance of digital infrastructure, curriculum reform, and partnerships with international institutions in order to adapt education to the demands of a rapidly changing world. Furthermore, the Secretariat took part in the MUSDAV Youth Summit Simulation and Conference in Ankara on 3 May, 2025, thus emphasizing our commitment to empower young people to take active roles in innovation, leadership, and global governance.

Agriculture and food security, a priority area for the D-8, witnessed significant progress through our participation in the Agricultural Diplomacy Workshop in Istanbul, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye on 21 April, 2025. Also, we partnered with the Global Environmental and Climate conservation Initiative (GECCI), an NGO in Nigeria, and organized the “High-Impact Webinar on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Date Palm Projects”, on 23 April, 2025. The webinar was attended by over 100 participants from our member states and beyond. The platform offered an avenue to promote sustainable farming practices, agritech innovations, and regional collaboration, for resilience and food security.

In the area of trade cooperation, I am pleased to inform that we witnessed a modest improvement in our trade agenda with the launch of the D-8 Center for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME Center) in Abuja, Nigeria, in June, 2025. This new institution will serve as a hub for innovation, best practice exchange, and capacity building, to enable SMEs – the backbone of our economies – to play a more impactful role in advancing intra-D-8 trade and economic cooperation. Closely tied to this was the 8th Supervisory Committee Meeting of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), also held in Abuja, last June. The meeting deliberated on strategies for effective implementation of our trade instrument. These steps bring us closer to fully operationalizing the PTA by 2026, paving the way for expanded intra-D-8 trade and economic integration.



Distinguished Readers,

Our external engagements witnessed a flurry of activities with our partners. We participated at the 51st Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Istanbul, in June, 2025. During the session, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), laying the groundwork for collaborative programs that will empower our youth in scientific, social, and cultural fields.

Finally, we strengthened ties with our partners and stakeholders by participating on platforms such as the Global Islamic Economy Summit and the conference on Bridging COP29 and COP30, organized by Albaraka Group and the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Istanbul, respectively. Also, we attended national day celebrations of some member states, including the joyous commemoration of Azerbaijan's Independence Day on 30 May, 2025. Each of these engagements reaffirmed the D-8's commitment to inclusive growth, sustainability, and cooperation across diverse fields.

Distinguished Readers,

As these highlights demonstrate, the past quarter has been one of consolidation, innovation, and outreach. From deepening trade and investment cooperation to advancing education, tourism, agriculture, and youth empowerment, our organization is making tangible progress in translating vision into action. These efforts are all the more significant as we prepare for upcoming milestones, including the operationalization of our trade agreements and enhanced visibility of our organization, on the global stage.

I invite you to journey with us through the pages of this Newsletter, which reflect not only our activities, but also our shared aspiration for a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary-General

STATUTORY MEETINGS

THE 49th SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION CONVENED IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE



The D-8 Commission successfully convened its 49th session on 26 May 2025, at the D-8 Secretariat's premises in Istanbul.

The 49th session was chaired by the D-8 Commissioner of Egypt, H.E. Ambassador Raqui El-Etreby. The session was attended by Commissioners and representatives from all D-8 Member States.



The 49th Commission took crucial decisions on administrative, financial, and organizational matters of the D-8. Among the D-8 Commission's decisions were creative and novel ways to streamline and strengthen the work of the Secretariat, which is responsible for managing the day-to-day operation of the organization.

The D-8 Commission is made up of Senior Officials from Member States' Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The Commission is one of the principal organs of the organization, entrusted with guiding the strategic direction of the organization.

MINISTERIAL AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

THE 4th D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON TOURISM WAS HELD IN CAIRO, EGYPT



A day before the 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, precisely on 4 May 2025, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Sherif Fathi, Minister of Tourism & Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in the Ministers office in Cairo. During the meeting, the two dignitaries reviewed the level of preparation for the 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.

The Secretary-General expressed appreciation to the Minister for the high level of preparation made and wished the upcoming 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism great success and a meaningful outcome, for the benefit of all D-8 nations.

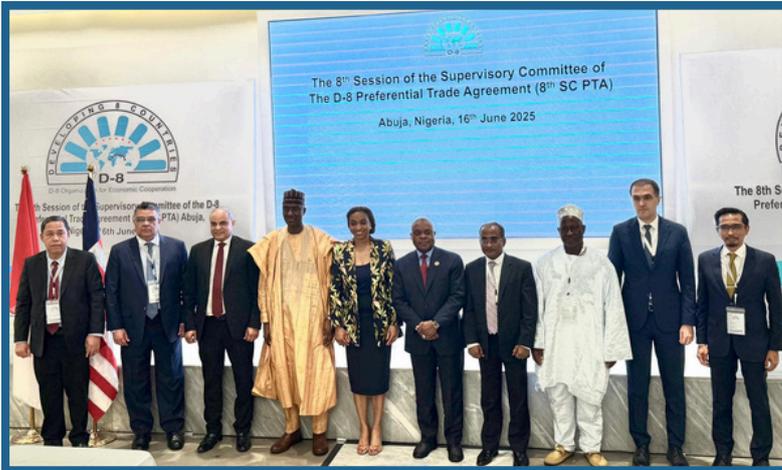


The 5th Senior Officials Meeting and 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism were successfully convened in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 5-6 May 2025, under the chairmanship of Egypt. Ministers and Senior Officials from D-8 Member States gathered and deliberated on strengthening tourism cooperation, within the group, in order to enhance the sector's contribution to sustainable development and economic growth.

The Meeting, which H.E. Sherif Fathi, the Honorable Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt chaired, produced the "Cairo Declaration on D-8 Tourism Cooperation 2025", enumerating member states' staunch commitment to promote and strengthen tourism cooperation, as one of the D-8 priority areas.

The Ministerial Meeting also institutionalized the annual D-8 Tourism City of the Year initiative and awarded the maiden 2025 prize to the city of Antalya, in Türkiye.

THE 8th SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE D-8 PTA WAS HELD IN NIGERIA



The Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (SC PTA), successfully convened its 8th Session in Abuja on 16 June 2025. The Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment of Nigeria (FMITI), H.E. Jumoke Oduwole, hosted the Session, while Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, chaired.

Majority of the SC PTA members attended the Session. The meeting was also attended by Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General. The representative of Egypt, as the D-8 Chairman-in-Office, also participated.

The 8th SC PTA deliberated on salient issues for effective implementation and operationalization of the D-8 PTA, as the primary trade instrument among the D-8 countries. Among the issues discussed were strategies to implement the PTA, the need to expand the PTA, and broadening of the scope of the Offer List of the PTA. The SC PTA also noted that six Contracting Members have been trading under the provisions of the D-8 PTA. The PTA is expected to be fully implemented, organization-wide, by the end of 2026.



The Supervisory Committee is the executive organ of the D-8, responsible for reviewing the implementation of the D-8 PTA. Its recommendations to the Council of D-8 Trade Ministers ensure the effective application of the D-8 PTA.

SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

D-8 PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTMENT TREATY CONFERENCE



The D-8 Secretariat, represented by Director -II, Mr. Punjul Nugraha, participated in an online program on Investment Treaty Conference, jointly organized, in a hybrid format, by the UNCTAD Investment Division, and The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), on 31 March 2025.

The D-8 took note of salient points related to investment treaty reform, particularly in modernizing investment treaty, to support the UN SDGs. The D-8 is proud to be among the early adopters of modern investment instruments, with the publication of the “UNCTAD and D-8 Joint Guiding Principles on Investment Policymaking”, in 2020.

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE D-8 NETWORK OF DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTES (D-8 NDI)

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated in the inaugural Meeting of the newly established D-8 Network of Diplomatic Institutes (D-8 NDI), which was hosted virtually by the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies, on 7 April 2025.



In the virtual meeting attended by the Heads of Diplomatic Institutes and Academies of the D-8 Member States, the D-8 SG underlined the crucial role of diplomatic institutions in preparing human resources that will help the Organization to achieve its goals and objectives. He welcomed the establishment of the D-8 NDI and expressed optimism that it would further catalyze the organization’s cohesiveness.

DELEGATION OF UCLG-MEWA VISITED THE D-8 SECRETARIAT



The delegation of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) paid a visit to the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul on 9 April 2025. The visit was to assess the level of implementation of the MoU signed between the two organizations, in 2015.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT MEETING (AIM) CONGRESS 2025

Gearing up to strengthen the D-8 investment cooperation, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated in the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) Congress 2025, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 7 April 2025, as part of implementing the MoU between the D-8 and the AIM Congress, signed on 8 May, 2024. The AIM Congress is one of the leading global investment cooperation platforms, based in Abu Dhabi, UAE.



As part of his activities at the AIM Congress 2025, Ambassador Imam held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Gunther Beger, the Managing Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The two sides identified concrete collaborative projects between the D-8 and UNIDO, focusing on agricultural and food security sectors. They agreed to develop a work plan to ensure effective collaboration and implementation of the existing Joint Declaration between the D-8 and UNIDO, signed in 2015.



To further boost the D-8 investment cooperation agenda, Ambassador Imam also met with Ms. Nan Li Collins, the Senior Director of Investment and Enterprise of UNCTAD, on the margins of the 14th AIM Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, on 8 April 2025.

During their meeting they discussed the longstanding D-8 and UNCTAD collaboration, particularly in international investment treaty reform, while identifying tangible activities to operationalize the “Joint D-8 and UNCTAD Guiding Principles on Investment Policymaking,” published in 2020. The Guiding Principle on Investment and Policymaking will provide the groundwork for a comprehensive D-8 investment instrument.

Ms. Collins and D-8 SG also discussed activities that could be jointly implemented at the forthcoming 9th World Investment Forum, schedule to hold in Vietnam in October 2025, particularly in areas that could be of mutual interest to the two organizations.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 4th ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM, IN ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya, Türkiye, on the invitation from H.E. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye.

Also, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Türkiye, graced the event with a keynote address delivered during the Forum’s Opening Session on 11 April 2025.

Speaking at the forum, D-8 SG supported the call by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Türkiye, for the promotion of dialogue over conflict, common sense over polarization, and global conscience over power competition.

The D-8 SG also subscribed to the importance for regular dialogue, diplomacy, and message of peace, in line with the ADF 2025 theme, “Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World”. Several global leaders, ministers, and scholars were in attendance.

While attending the ADF 2025 Leaders Talk, by H.E. Prabowo Subianto, the President of the Republic of Indonesia on 11 April 2025, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam agreed with the Indonesian President’s statement, that collaboration and mutual respect are essential in a globalized World. Ambassador Imam also noted that the President’s conviction that diplomacy, albeit in the face of myriads of challenges, is a crucial tool in maintaining peace, which is a foundation for prosperity.



During the ADF, Ambassador Imam participated as a panelist at the Antalya Diplomacy Roundtable on Digital Competition in Transforming Markets, on 12 April 2025. The D-8 SG underlined the need to invest in human resources to create digital skills workforce.

Speaking further, Ambassador Imam spoke on the challenges associated with digitalization and urged global collaboration and public-private partnership to address those challenges that are related to the rapid technological advancement. He highlighted the need to create coherent policies to govern digitalization, stressing the need to strike a balance between advancement with data and privacy protection.

AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OTS

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, met with Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), on the margins of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya, on 11 April 2025.

The two dignitaries agreed to strengthen collaboration in areas of common interests, such as digitalization, agriculture, transportation, and other activities, through exchange of best practices and joint capacity building programs. The D-8 SG and the SG of OTS also agreed to explore the possibility of establishing an instrument of cooperation, which would be supported by an Action Plan.

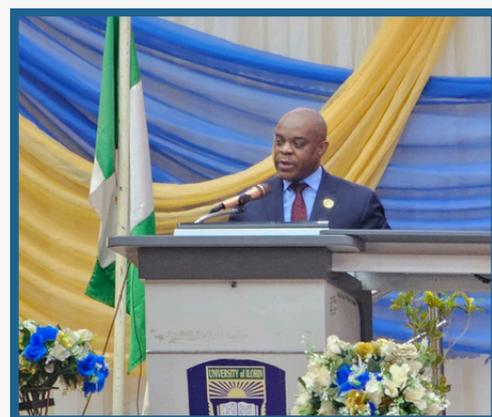


D-8 SG PARTICIPATED AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZING EDUCATION HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, delivered a keynote address at the International Conference themed “Globalizing Education: Strategies, Challenges, and Sustainability”, hosted by the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, on 16 April 2025, as part of the activities to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the University.

Speaking at the conference, which was attended by representatives from several countries, the D-8 SG underlined three strategies to strengthen education cooperation in order to address the challenges posed by the ever-changing global dynamics. He underlined the need to establish partnerships with international institutions, invest in digital infrastructure, and reform curricular to strengthen education cooperation, stressing the priority placed by the D8 on education and human resources development.



The D-8 SG acknowledged the active role of the University of Ilorin in the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI). He commended the University for hosting the 3rd NPRI meeting in November 2024. He congratulated the University of Ilorin on its silver jubilee celebration and invited the University to strengthen collaboration with the D8 in the area of research, particularly in agriculture and food security and renewable energy as well as entrepreneurship development, for mutual benefits. During the visit, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam was interviewed by the Unilorin TV Station and the Unilorin Radio 89.3 FM, through a live broadcast.

D-8 PARTICIPATED IN THE 4th AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY COUNCIL'S AGRICULTURAL DIPLOMACY WORKSHOP IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

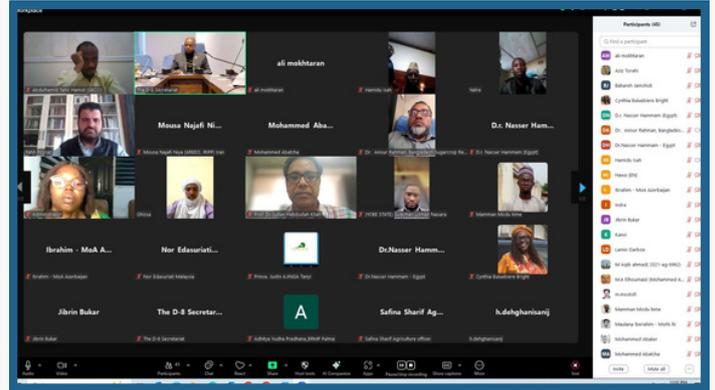


Upon an invitation from the Government of Türkiye, the D-8 Secretariat participated in the 4th Agriculture and Forestry Council's Agricultural Diplomacy Workshop held on 21 April, 2025 at the TIM Conference Hall in Istanbul. The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TIM).

The high-level gathering brought together ministers from Türkiye, Azerbaijan, and Egypt. The workshop, which addressed the mechanism for advancing regional cooperation in agriculture, promoting sustainable farming, enhancing agri-trade, and driving innovation, was a key step to deepen integration in agriculture and food security, through agricultural diplomacy.

HIGH-IMPACT WEBINAR ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND DATE PALM PROJECTS WAS ORGANIZED BY THE D8 SECRETARIAT AND THE GECCI

On 23 April 2025, the Secretariat of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Global Environmental and Climate conservation Initiative (GECCI), an NGO based in Abuja, Nigeria, successfully co-hosted the High-Impact Webinar on Climate-Smart Agriculture & Date Palm Projects in D-8 Nations, 2025.



The webinar, which was attended by D-8 member states, brought together over 100 participants from D-8 countries and beyond.

The theme of the program was "Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Date Palm Cultivation: A Pathway to Food Security and Resilience in D-8 Countries".

Highlights of the webinar include:

- Empowering farmers through CSA practices;
- Promoting resilient, alternative crops like date palms;
- Sharing agritech, innovations & best practices; and
- Building regional collaboration for sustainable agriculture.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL MET WITH THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY OF IRAN AT THE 7TH EXPORT POTENTIAL EXHIBITION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

A meeting took place between the D-8 Secretary General and H.E. Mohammad Atabak, Minister of Industry of Iran, on the margins of the 3rd Iran-African Economic Cooperation Summit and 7th Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran, held in Teheran on 27 April 2025. The two dignitaries underscored the need to boost trade and strengthen industrial development across the D8 member countries, through initiatives such as D-8 Industrial Park, Special Economic Zones, the New Generation Barter Trading System and holding regular D8 Business Forums as well as by promoting SMEs development.



D-8 ATTENDED THE MUSDAV YOUTH SUMMIT SIMULATION AND CONFERENCE



The D-8 Secretariat, represented by Director - II, Mr. Punjul Nugraha, participated in the Opening ceremony of the International Foundation for Solidarity with Muslim Communities (MUSDAV) Youth Summit Simulation and Conference, themed “Youth and Future: Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence and New World Order”, in Ankara on 3 May 2025.

The Director disclosed that D-8 has mainstreamed youth economic empowerment in its cooperation agenda, stressing that plans are under way to operationalize the D8 Youth Council, which was established at the 1st D8 Ministerial Meeting on Youth held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 21 May 2024. The Director further said that the youth can actively participate in the new global order through constant learning and innovation and active engagement in leadership roles.

AMBASSADOR IMAM PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OF AZERBAIJAN

Sharing the joy of the national day celebration of the D-8’s newest family member, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the reception to commemorate the Independence Day of Azerbaijan, hosted by the Consul General of Azerbaijan in Istanbul on 30 May 2025.



The D-8 Secretary-General used the opportunity to congratulate the Government of Azerbaijan during the reception, which was also attended by H.E. Yalchin Rafiyev, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE OF BRIDGING COP29 AND COP30 IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE



D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka A. Imam, took part in the conference “Bridging COP29 and COP30: Diplomacy, Action, and the Climate Road Ahead”, organized by the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Istanbul on, 30 May 2025.

The D8 SG delivered opening remarks, alongside H.E. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, and H.E. Fatma Varank, Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye.

The conference brought together public officials, international organizations and business leaders, who discussed the implementation of COP29 outcomes and preparations for COP30, to be hosted by Brazil.

On the sidelines of the conference, D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Imam, held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The two dignitaries discussed Azerbaijan’s commitment to contribute to the D-8 Organization, particularly in the areas of transport, energy, and media cooperation, by establishing relevant centers, as affiliate bodies of the D8, in Azerbaijan.



The D-8 SG welcomed Azerbaijan into the D8 Family and applauded the various initiatives being championed by Azerbaijan to add value to the Organization’s works and cooperation agenda.

D-8 SG ATTENDED THE 2ND GLOBAL ISLAMIC ECONOMY SUMMIT IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE



Upon an invitation from Albaraka Forum for Islamic Economy, an institution established to “Develop and Promote the Islamic Economy Worldwide” the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, participated in the opening ceremony of the Forum’s 2nd Global Islamic Economy Summit, held in Istanbul, on 30 May 2025.

The Summit, with the theme “Islamic Economics Strategies: Path to Influential Global Economy,” was attended by the Hon’ble President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, amongst other high-level dignitaries. In his key note address, H.E. President Erdogan, underlined the growing global demand for a human-centered, just, compassionate, and responsible economic paradigm, particularly in the field of finance.

The event brought together high-level representatives from the public sector, international organizations, financial institutions, and the business community, reaffirming the shared commitment to advancing inclusive and sustainable economic models rooted in Islamic economic principles.

THE D-8 CENTER FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (D-8 SME CENTER) LAUNCHED IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

The D-8 Center for Small and Medium Enterprises (D-8 SME Center) was officially launched on 17 June 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) facilitated the official launch, alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment of Nigeria and the D-8 Secretariat.



Representatives from the D-8 Member States also attended, allowing them an opportunity to share best practices in the SME development cooperation. The Center will soon be equipped with a work plan and organizational structure.



In his remarks, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, reiterated that the D-8 SME Center will be a center of excellence for collaboration among the D-8 Member States, in order to build the capacity of SMEs, across the D-8 Member States.

After the Official Launch of the Center, the Delegations of the D-8 Member States, and the D-8 SG were taken on a tour of the facilities at the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) in Abuja, by the Director General of SMEDAN, Dr. Charles Odii.

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE 51ST SESSION OF THE OIC CFM

Upon an invitation from the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, (OIC,) Ambassador Isiaka Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 51st Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 21-22 June 2025, held under the theme “The OIC in Transforming World.”

The D-8 SG noted the salient points discussed during the meeting, including comments raised by various delegations on the plight of the Palestinians and the unprovoked attack against Iran.



The D-8 Secretary-General also subscribed to the statement of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Türkiye, who called on the Muslim world to unite to support Palestine, and promote peace in the Middle East.

D-8 AND ICYF INKED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



To advance youth empowerment cooperation, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General and Mr. Taha Ayhan, President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the D-8 and the ICYF on the margins of the OIC CFM in Istanbul, on 21 June 2025.

The MoU will serve as a foundation for joint programs between the D-8 and ICYF to promote youth empowerment, through scientific, social, economic, and cultural capacity-building programs.

D-8 MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATED IN IFIMES'S 'UNDERSTANDING AI' COURSE

The D-8 Secretariat facilitated the participation of the Member States in an online "Global Multidisciplinary Course on Understanding AI", which was organized by the International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), in collaboration with Silk Road 4.0, from 22 May to 10 July 2025.

The Course provided participants, including some staff of the Secretariat, with a deeper understanding of artificial intelligence and its potential, to enhance the organization's works. Conducted in an interactive session, the course afforded participants with valuable opportunities to engage with experts from leading international organizations, government, academia, and industry, on the issue of AI.

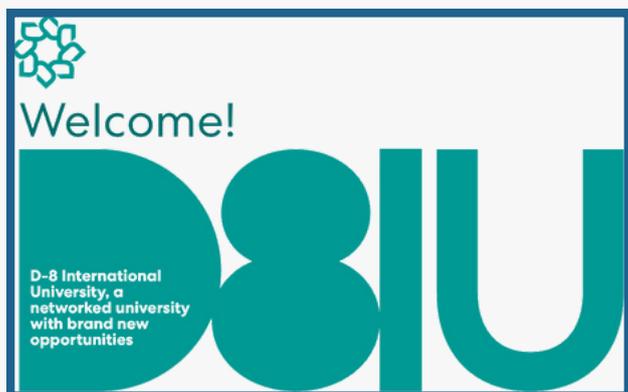


In addition to the D-8 Member States, approximately 60 other participants from across the globe, also attended the Course. The organizers issued certificate to participants at the end of the course.

ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATED BODIES

D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (D-8 IU)

D-8 International University Launches Groundbreaking International Bridge Initiative (IBI) with Strategic Global Partnerships



The Public and International Affairs office of D-8 International University (D-8IU) proudly announces the launch of the International Bridge Initiative (IBI), a transformative program designed to foster exceptional academic collaboration across D-8 member states. The IBI was formally presented and highly commended during the D-8 Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Cairo, Egypt on 19 December 2024, where it was recognized for its significant potential to advance international academic cooperation and integration among member nations.

Core Initiative: Innovative Dual Doctorate Program

The IBI's pioneering first phase introduces an innovative dual doctorate framework, establishing institutional partnerships with leading universities. This initiative represents a major advancement in international educational cooperation, providing scholars with unprecedented opportunities for cross-cultural academic advancement and joint research collaboration.

Implementation Progress: Finalized Partnerships

The following institutional agreements have been established under the IBI framework:

- COMSATS University Islamabad (Pakistan)
- Brawijaya University (Indonesia)
- University of Education (Pakistan)

These partnerships create structured frameworks opportunity for joint research supervision, academic exchange, and dual degree recognition between D-8IU and partner institutions.



Expanding Global Network: Strategic Memorandum of Understanding

Complementing the IBI, D-8IU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Istanbul Aydın University during the EURAS cooperation summit. This agreement establishes a comprehensive framework for:

- Joint research initiatives and academic programs
- Faculty and student exchange opportunities
- Collaborative conferences and workshops
- Shared academic resources and infrastructure

Forward Momentum

The IBI continues to expand its network of partner institutions, reinforcing D-8IU's commitment to fostering academic excellence and innovation across D-8 member states. These strategic partnerships demonstrate D-8IU's unique position as an institution affiliated with an international organization to advance scientific diplomacy and technological cooperation among member states and global partners, paving the way for enhanced collaborative projects and knowledge exchange.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



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