

A GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROUP THIRD SUMMIT, CAIRO 2001

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## THIRD SUMMIT MEETING

*Cairo*  
*25 February 2001*

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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# **PART I**

## **STATEMENTS**

### **BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS**



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. MUHAMMAD HOSNI MUBAREK,  
PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**





**Your Excellencies Presidents,  
Your Highness Prime Ministers,  
Heads and Members of Delegations,**

I would like to welcome you in Egypt that hosts, with pleasure, the first D-8 Summit in the new millennium. We hope this summit will further highlight our clear way towards cooperation in the interest of our countries and peoples as well as those of the friendly countries and peoples. It is further hoped this summit will contribute to the development and cooperation among all countries of the world.

At the outset, I would like to express my deep thanks and appreciation for the preceding chairman of our Group, Her Highness, Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bangladesh for her wise leadership and the achievements made over two years by herself, together with officials of her government to firmly entrench our youthful group.

**Your Excellencies, Highness and Majesties,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This is our first summit in 2001, the year declared by the United Nations as “the Year of Inter-Civilizations Dialogue”. This makes it incumbent on our group to take the initiative of voicing its concepts and determining its contributions.

The Group should also express its aspiration in this context in order to bring about rapprochement between the peoples and nations of the world. Nowadays, the world is more than ever in a dire need for true, comprehensive and serious interaction between its civilizations and peoples that addresses various challenges facing humanity in political, economic, cultural, social and environmental fields. This will require an equitable approach based on balanced interests and the search for potential benefits to various countries and peoples of the world. This approach should be based on joint responsibility rather than pursuit for power and maximizing individual gains even at the expense of others.

I am sure that you agree with me that the globalization phenomena, which implies the integration of the world into

one whole unit in the face of many vital issues, has brought about many opportunities as well as many challenges.

In view of the accelerating flow of individuals, ideas, commodities and services concomitant with globalization, today, more than ever, there looks most liable to come true the dream of rapprochement between human groups, increasing opportunities of welfare based on mutual benefits and interests across our planet with the least amount of artificial barriers.

However, to give full rein to the automatic mechanisms of the globalization phenomenon is not necessarily the optimal approach to make use of opportunities provided thereby. Given the logic of supermacy of the most powerful, this approach would most often lead to giving full rein, beyond control to its least rational, balanced or humane components that may overpower others that indeed constitute the essence of what humanity aspires for or most important needs.

Against the positive opportunities provided by globalization, including the tremendous progress in technology especially information technology, increasing capital flows and open markets, there arose negative such aspects of those op-

portunities that raise much concern. these are in the sustained problems of poverty, ignorance, debts, outbreaks of diseases and epidemics that threaten the whole nations, the growing marginalization of developing communities, depriving them from reaping the fruits of globalization.

Concomitant with this is the widening gap between them and the more fortunate communities. These are inseparable faces of one and the same coin, that must be accepted and addressed as such, namely globalization as it now exists.

Although, we all agree that globalization is a reality rather than an option, that trend that should be taken thereby depends on how we react to its shortcomings and weaknesses in response to the aspirations of our developing countries for maximizing the benefits, to be gained from the positive aspects and alleviating down to the lowest possible limit the suffering caused by negative aspects of globalization.

Within this context, the world community is called to agree on a new forward-looking agenda to address its expectations from globalization and face risks involved by giving top priority to the settlement existing problems. Moreover as developing countries, we have to effectively share in formu-

lating this agenda and seriously and surely put forth our vision. In so doing, our approach should be one of positive, balanced and comprehensive dialogue based on conveying interests, rather than class confrontation that yields no benefit to any specific party.

One of the top challenges to be addressed by the new agenda there comes poverty. Although, this is one of the oldest human phenomenon, the developments of the past century, especially those of the last decade, have brought it to such levels that are hardly acceptable politically, economically and even morally.

Indeed, the ideas, principles and plans agreed upon in the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development followed by the Food Summit in Rome and finally United Nations Millennium Summit in New York may be regarded a good starting-point for this approach within the framework of our plans to bring down poverty and hunger to half by the year 2015. However, unless these plans yield tangible results, then the credibility of world community will lie in jeopardy. Therefore, I believe that there is a pressing need to consider ways and means of implementing resolutions taken and acti-

vating geared to urgently and methodologically international efforts to combat poverty.

This should be effective through active moves in concert with the international financing institutions and the United Nations and its specialized agencies and putting forth specific proposals so that our group can share in formulating, developing and implementing them. Next in the order of importance, there comes the challenge related to the equitable Liberalization of trade. Open markets in today's world are basically accessible for the products of advanced countries, while, our exports as well as those of the rest of the developing countries are faced everyday with new protectionist procedures, overt or covert, that impede their access to the advanced countries' markets, limiting their chances to make use of the world trade order.

Therefore, efforts geared to develop a fair world trade order must be given special attention, with a view to redressing existing imbalances, which causes such order, by virtue of circumstances involving its rise and evolution, tilt against the interests of developing economies and their producers.

Here, the starting point may be the complete honest im-

plementation of the Uruguay Round agreements. Thus, the developing countries may begin to reap such positive fruits that may offset the share, so far incurred by them, of the burdens of these agreements. However this step must be followed by others.

That put the development component at the heart of the efforts to regulate and the liberalize world trade. This would give credibility to the existing order and encourage all parties to abide by and protect, as a means of safeguarding tangible benefits gained there from.

Added to this is the challenge of attracting international investments and capital attraction. Undoubtedly, globalization has led to a huge expansion in cross-border flows of capitals and investments; a promising phenomenon that should be encouraged.

However, a close scrutiny of occurrences taking place in the past two decades indicates that a large percentage of flows were in the form of hot capital and short-term finance. Speculation-and-rapid-profit-oriented, most of these flows



were not geared towards increasing production, creating job opportunities nor adding up to the capabilities of host countries. On the contrary, the largest portion of the cross-border and long-term production investments have headed to advanced countries as well as a limited number of developing countries whereas most developing countries had virtually no share of such vital and significant type of investments.

In the light of the limited capacity of global investment and capital market to meet the needs of many developing countries to finance development, we today welcome efforts already exerted towards the convention of a high-level international conference on financing development, due to be held in the coming year. This will be an opportunity for us to conduct, for the first time, an effective dialogue and a genuine cooperation in this field involving donor states and institutions and developing countries; with the participation of the international economic and financial institutions on top of which are the International Monetary Fund, the World

Bank and the World Trade Organization. Bringing together all parties of world dialogue in this respect, we can together start work, as advanced and developing countries alike, on drawing up necessary instruments to increase the flux of productive investments to developing countries and open new markets so as to absorb their products.

Related to this is the importance of forestalling the impending onslaughts of the new threat that has hit the new economic order. This is represented in the financial blasts, triggered by the least causes; resulting in the undermining of achievements already made over long years of exertion and hard work. Moreover, these blasts have behind a wreckage of facilities that have been, up to yesterday, successful and lucrative; leading to an abrupt repression in living standards and growth rates.

Hence, comes the need to enhance the ability of the international financial system to confront financial crises, without having to impose constraints to ability of the developing countries to attract capital need for development.

Moreover, necessary measures should be taken to boost the capability of all developing countries to cope with such crises and contain their consequences with the least damage.

I would like to seize the opportunity of our meeting today to call, together with yourselves, upon the international community and the advanced countries in particular, to intensify efforts to confront these three challenges: Poverty, Trade, and Finance, over the coming period, in order to attain the aspired equilibrium in world economic order and enhance the ability of the developing countries to integrate into it and cope with its shortfalls through an intergrated system. In fact, what alleviates the consequences of these shortfalls is a common sense of joint responsibility on the part of all countries, foremost of which are the advanced countres, for confronting them.

**Your Excellencies and Highness,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Summit comes up under such circumstances that are much different from those of our previous summit in Daka.

At that time, present were the implications of economic troubles that had hit some developing countries in Asia and elsewhere, hanging out over our work, raising many questions not only on the success already achieved by these countries but also on the chances available to developing countries, in general, to break up the circle of backwardness and break into prospects of progress.

Although, we were confident of the ability of these countries to overcome their crisis relying on their own efforts and capabilities that had initially helped them achieve their great economic revival, we congratulate them once again for the dynamism and vitality they have asserted to the world as their proven ability to confront challenges and cope with variables.

However, the end of this crisis does not mean that our countries have attained their aspirations or that challenges and difficulties have vanished once and for all.

Although our conditions in general are now more stable,

yet we all still face, in varying degrees, unfavourable economic conditions, calling for further efforts necessary to effectively address the challenge of development and progress.

The unfavourable global economic conditions, which are basically related to the phenomena associated with globalization, still represent the main challenge to our efforts. Nevertheless, we do undertake our share of responsibility, on the national level by strengthening productive structures and financial systems, maintaining social justice and ensuring sustainable and comprehensive development in all fields, or through our cooperation as developing countries with the object of curbing our dependence on the advanced economies and diversifying our foreign economic relations.

To day our group is about to complete its fourth year of age. In spite of this brief time space of the group, it has been fraught with such perseverent and hard work, that fills us with pride and hope.

Our group has the right to be proud of the achievement al-

ready made over the past four years since its first summit in Istanbul. These included the establishment of a strong base represented in an effective rather than rigid institutional framework. Achievements also included identifying areas and sowing seeds of cooperation through defined and tangible steps and a series of technical and ministerial meetings held during the Turkish and Bengladeshi terms of chairmanship.

It is these great steps that prompt us to look forward to further achievements in the way of translating these goals into tangible projects and programmes of cooperation that serve the interest of our peoples and pose as a model of cooperation among developing countries.

To this end, I would like to put forward in the following my conception of some guidelines for the work of the Group in the coming period, where Egypt will have the honour to chair the Group, hoping that these will gain your support.

On top of the priority areas, there comes that of trade.

Despite close cultural and historical bonds among our countries, our intertrade stands at less than 3.5 percent of our total foreign trade, which poses as a visible challenge.

Successful handling of this challenge will yield substantial gains for us in the way of mutual utilization of our markets with their purchasing power, as well as maintenance of more balanced commercial relations, thus making them less vulnerable to the economic volatility that afflicts traditional markets.

Undoubtedly, we are called upon to redouble our efforts to promote trade through developing its infrastructure including information and services and strengthening the mechanisms of dialouge between private sectors representatives in our countries; an item that topped our priorities upon establishing this forum.

In this context, I would like to express my happiness for establishing the D-8 Forum of Chambers of Commerce, and Industry, and Businessmen's Associations of the D-8. No

doubt, this forum will contribute to activating the role of the private sector and creating momentum to make it one of the basic pillars of cooperation among our countries.

Hence, I call upon you to set together, as governments and private sectors, a common goal in the field of trade to serve as guidelines for our work and movement in the coming period, ie.; to redouble our intertrade to gross trade ratio from about 3.5 percent to 7 percent over the coming five years. Although some people might view as of ambitious, this goal would not be too difficult to attain should concerted efforts be exerted and trust and strong determination be applied towards this end realize.

Moving to information and telecommunication technology, the increasing importance of this area in any serious progress-and-cooperation-oriented programme cannot be disputed.

It is true that, acquiring and upgrading such technologies and applications are a major tool for progress, while their



availability represents a basic underpinning of cooperation through facilitating the flow of information.

Therefore, I intend to give double attention to this area especially cooperation in software industry. It is also proposed to consider possibilities of cooperation in the field of manufacturing relevant basic technologies and components, relying on the advances made by some of our countries in this respect as well as the capabilities severally and jointly possessed by our countries.

No less important is cooperation in taking tangible steps yielding immediate returns to citizens in their day-to-day life, such as cooperation in boosting our industrial capabilities, giving due attention to the social dimension of development through creating job opportunities, protecting environment and combating poverty and other important areas that may enhance our peoples' sense of peace and stability and provide welfare and advancement.

**Your Excellencies and Highnesses,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am not attempting here to reach an agreement on an integrated work programme but rather to open a serious dialogue between ourselves to discuss the best means to strength cooperation and consolidate development efforts among our countries.

This is not mean to exclude other existing areas of cooperation, but rather to provide grounds on which we hope to build on, based on achievements already made and on our solidarity and joint keenness on success.

Under our action programme for realizing our great aspirations, we have many tasks to perform. I am fully confident that our determination to achieve progress and cooperation is not short of the work that remains to be performed and the hope that we cherish.

Allow me to welcome you once again in Cairo and express my hope that our work, with the help of God, will be

crowned with success for the welfare of our peoples and humanity at large. May God guide us all to the right path.

**May Allah's Peace, Mercy and Blessings be upon you.**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO,**

**PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA**



**Address by**  
**His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo**  
**At the 3<sup>rd</sup> D-8 Summit**  
**Cairo, Egypt, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2001**

May I, on behalf of the Nigerian delegation express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded us since our arrival in the country.

The holding of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit here shows how much confidence leaders of the group have in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The convening of the Summit in Cairo is a manifestation of our commitment and determination towards promotion of the South-South cooperation, and the cause of the D-8, as spelled out in the **Istanbul Declaration**. I note with satisfaction the significant progress that the Group has since made in the pursuit of a better standard of living for all our peoples.

Mr. Chairman, today, extreme poverty stalks over one billion people, while another two billion people live in varying conditions of poverty. Different conferences and Summits of the closing decade of the last century, have proffered action plans to eradicate poverty. Regrettably, however, poverty continues to develop in developing countries.

We all have embraced the challenge of poverty alleviation. Let our collective resolve at this summit be made to have direct positive impact on the lives of our peoples. The time is NOW!, when we should establish a clear strategy for action for tangible reduction, if not total eradication- of poverty amongst our peoples. I am convinced that we can lift our people out of poverty.

Our war against the oppressive twin of poverty and underdevelopment will not succeed without resolving the equally oppressive issue of heavy debt burden, which constitutes the greatest impediment to development and progress in developing countries. No significant measure of development is at all possible, as long as countries continue to devote substantial amount of their often limited resources to debt servicing. Rescheduling, as we know from experience, does not address the fundamental problem of huge and unwieldy debt exposure.

The fact is that debt erodes the will of Government to address the needs of its people. Democracy which we all want, and which we all practice, is seriously threatened by an environment of strangulating debt, where there are social and economic needs to be satisfied. It is reassuring to note that the need for decisive steps to resolve debt problem, is today, well recognised. What is lacking is the political courage and will, on the part of developed countries, to translate this into policy, for the benefits of the developing countries. Our Group should add its voice to this campaign, because it is the right thing to do. It is the only thing to do.

While we appreciate the various initiatives that have been proffered, we must be honest with ourselves and acknowledge that these measures are inadequate. Even the much heralded highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) debt initiative, has not provided the expected relief, or the way out, for extremely poor countries. The Third UN Conference on the least developed countries slated for MAY this year, provides us another opportunity to speak with one voice to urge the developed countries to implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries, without further delay.

It is also my strong belief that there is no better moment than now to call on the creditor nations to take decisive action to cancel the external debt of all developing countries, so as to give them a fresh start. We must also stress the fact that debt remission and debt cancellation should not be viewed as alternative to the much needed official development assistance (ODA), on which many developing countries depend. To this end, I call on all of us to mobilize requisite external resources, especially foreign direct investment (FDI), for development of our countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, our world is being steadily transformed by the combined forces of globalisation and liberalisation, which have turned our world into a global village. While globalisation has created prosperity for industrialised countries, the vast majority of the developing countries lack the resources and infrastructure to take advantage of its opportunities. For us in the developing world, globalisation will remain a phantom notion until we can perceive the benefits in our lives.

I am glad to note that our Group is taking up the challenge through its action plans to address the negative impact of globalisation on developing countries. The programmes to tackle obstacles to free trade among the D-8 countries, are highly commendable. It must however be stated that free trade can only be secured through determined political leadership, which I believe D-8 represents.

Nigeria is currently engaged in radical transformation of its economy. It is our belief that careful and consistent sound policies, will enable us harness these vast amount of human and natural resources in order to bring about an improvement in the living standard of our people. With a population of about 120 million citizens, Nigeria, without doubt, has a large internal market for the consumption of various manufactured goods and services. At the moment, our products are widely consumed, not only in our immediate neighbouring countries of ECOWAS sub-region, but also in several other African countries. We have, therefore, been promoting trade in accordance with the principles of South-South cooperation.

In the same vein, we would like to see member states of the D-8, adopt policies of unimpeded access to one another's market, so as to improve the present unsatisfactory volume of trade between them. A review of visa policy in order to allow our business communities the free interaction, would be a welcome development. In West Africa, we have initiated a regional wide initiative to guarantee freedom of movement of goods and services, as well as persons, and a common currency for the sub-region is envisaged by 2002. Also, a common passport for our itinerant nationals has already been introduced for the sub-region. If I cite these few

instances, it is to demonstrate what partnership can achieve. It is in the spirit, that I call on all member states, to take practical steps to remove the major impediments to development of our countries, as this will complement our collective efforts for solution to the existing global economic problems.

The private sector, as the engine of our economic growth, has an invaluable contribution to make. In this regard, in Nigeria, we have embarked on a programme of privatization. We feel Government can provide policy guidelines and allow private enterprise to flourish. It is our view that with vibrant economies, D-8 Group will be in a better position to contribute to the attainment of our common objectives. I am happy that D-8 Forum for Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been set up, and in fact had its first meeting three days ago. Nigeria will sooner than later sign the Charter creating this important Forum because of our conviction that if D-8 cooperation is to be meaningful, private sector must be actively involved.

Mr. Chairman, the central role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in today's emerging global economy, is well established. ICT represents a most practical and realistic short-cut of integrating developing countries into the global economy. Regrettably, its huge potentials for advancing development, has not been realized in the majority of developing countries. I am aware of the significant strides which some of our members have made to challenge Western dominance of the ICT. Indeed, their courage and resourcefulness should point the way forward to what can be done, if we set our minds to execute carefully planned policies that will improve our capacity in that critical area. For those of us who are still lagging behind, we have the challenge to overcome the growing "digital divide". Let us therefore, embrace with renewed interest, this challenge, so that our people can truly share in the bounteous advantages of globalized information and communication technology within our borders. At this Summit therefore, we must set target for the use of ICT in all member states of the D-8.

Mr. Chairman, it is pleasing to note that majority of the member states of our organisation are already vigorously pursuing the objectives and principles for which our organisation was established. At this juncture, I would like to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Iran, for successfully launching the Industrial and Technological Data Bank (ITDB), in May, last year. I also commend the Turkish Government for successfully manufacturing the prototype of the agricultural aircraft.

I wish to recall that at the inception of D-8, Nigeria was passing through one of the darkest period in her history. If the Group saw less of Nigeria's participation in its activities, it was because we were bogged down in our efforts to put our house in order. If we were to make any meaningful contribution, domestic stability was needed. I am happy to inform this august gathering that we have not only achieved our goal of the return to democracy and the rule of law, but have also made significant progress in our economic reforms. I am taking this opportunity to assure you of Nigeria's active involvement in all future activities of the D-8 countries.



Mr. Chairman, these are auspicious times for developing countries, and for the members of the Group in particular. We are no longer called upon to dream of cooperation and development; we are to actualise these dreams in cooperative ventures that will give our economies a firm and respectable place in the international economic order.

Our countries cannot afford to throw away the opportunities that we have today to satisfy the yearnings of our people, for improved standard of living. I will like to reiterate Nigeria's believe in the objectives of D-8 Group, and urge member states to give their maximum support in order to enable the organisation achieve its objectives. Many hands, they say, make light work. It is my sincere hope that our decisions at this Summit, will be a forward thrust, in achieving our common objectives.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**



**SUMMARY OF POINTS MADE BY  
H. E. K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> D-8 SUMMIT  
CAIRO, 25 FEBRUARY 2001**

1. D-8 projects should continue to be implemented on the basis of feasibility, flexibility, practicability in order to attain concrete benefits for our community.
2. In this light, D-8 cooperation should be focused and deepened within the agreed priority areas such as trade, agriculture, finance and banking, poverty alleviation, rural development and others.
3. The key success of poverty alleviation programs is the full participation of the people and the support from private sectors at the implementation stage of the programs designed by governments.
4. In ensuring the full participation of all D-8 members, new projects should be adopted in a more selective manner, giving priority to those that will directly augment our fundamental economic development.
5. Commend on the historic and successful meeting of D-8 private sector with their First D-8 Business Forum held before the Summit, which was followed by a fruitful and open dialog with the Commissioners.
6. Encourage to share the vision of D-8 with the private sector in order to get them to participate in the planning and implementation of D-8 projects.
7. On the other hand, Governments should facilitate the needs of D-8 private sectors in order to forge cooperation amongst them for the benefit of our peoples.
8. Finally, Indonesia realizes that D-8 has many tasks to accomplish and many challenges to overcome, yet we should remain optimistic and keep on building on what we have accomplished.

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. NECDET SEZER,**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**



**Statement by  
The President of the Republic of Turkey  
(Cairo, 25 February 2001) (\*)**

Mr. Chairman,  
Honorable Heads of States and Delegations,  
Distinguished Members of Delegations  
and Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be in Egypt, participating in this Third Summit of the D-8 which contributes to strengthening the strong relations between our two countries.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my views on a number of international economic issues and on the formation of the D-8.

The D-8 Group is attracting greater attention in the international arena with each passing day. Collective action on our part when approaching regional issues and strengthening the commercial and economic dimension of the D-8 will, in our view, help increase the influence of the D-8 Group even more.

The countries of the D-8 possess rich natural resources and ample human capital with high potential. We could use this potential to open new doors at a level of cooperation that would set an example for other countries as well.

Global economic conditions force developing nations to tackle the economic problems they face even more seriously. Negative developments of any kind in the global economy affect the least developed and developing countries the most.

The international economy which has been recovering only recently from the financial crisis in Southeast Asia in 1997 and had repercussions on the rest of the world is now facing perplexities



emanating from jumps in oil prices and slow downs in the economic growth of major countries of the international system. In addition, the recent protectionist tendencies of the developed countries in international trade, cuts in foreign aid for economic developments, and foreign debts of developing countries that have reached levels of almost default are obstructing the process of development.

It is of fundamental importance to decrease the adverse affects of the current economic developments on the economies of developing and the least developed countries.

The international financial institutions and economic organizations need to help and contribute to the efforts of the least developed and developing countries.

In the process of globalization, there is no doubt that the advanced economies are also face to face with a number of problems. These countries, however, are better equipped to deal with such problems in the process. The developed countries are expected to help the other members of the international community. Such assistance should include technical cooperation and foreign direct investment in developing countries as well as alleviation of international debt.

Poverty has become a fundamental problem around the globe. Income distribution in and among countries has contributed to the imbalance. Much ground can be covered in poverty alleviation by strengthening economic and commercial cooperation within the D-8.

Despite the gravity of the economic and social conditions, this age of information and technology obliges the developed and developing countries alike to give due importance to education, administrative reforms, transparency in public and economic administration and participatory democracy in the fight against poverty. Such an approach will help all concerned to overcome some of the most important challenges on the way.

Countries in the developing world expect the international organizations to take action and produce creative solutions to poverty and other problems in social and economic development. Turkey, in this context, supports the reforms undertaken within the framework of international financial system and other ongoing efforts in international platforms.

Improvements in technology and liberalization in international trade in the last fifty years have increased the world prosperity. However, the gains of the peoples of the developing countries have not been proportionate to those of the developed world. There were, in fact losses in the least developed countries.

International trade system can play a significant role in solving the problems of development if it is just and works smoothly. The World Trade Organization is now an organization which is gaining greater importance in this respect. A world where the influence of the WTO is decreasing, where there are big economic blocks of developed countries, will have grave consequences on the interests of the developing and the least developed countries. That is why we attach importance to the expansion of the world trade system and the accession of new members to the WTO. Thus, while the new members will be integrating into the global system, the system itself will be strengthened by them.

Turkey supports the new round of trade talks which will take into account the rights and interests of all the members.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Representatives,

In this meeting I was very happy to see the important progress achieved by the D-8. It is very clear that we need to increase the trade volume among our countries and that there are great possibilities to this end. The intensification of trade relations within the D-8 will in turn result in the increase of our share in the world trade. The important role of the private sector in the development efforts makes it essential for the private sector to play a leading role in the D-8.

I therefore believe that the private sector should be the major player in the "International Marketing and Trading Company". This will enable the company to be more efficient.

I am also happy to see that the Business Forum has been formed. I congratulate Egypt for the successful coordination of the work in the field of trade. The signing of the agreement on the easing of the visa restrictions for businessmen is also an important achievement for the D-8.

I believe that the International Trade and Data Bank Network is important, as it will enable our countries to make the best use of the technology and communications possibilities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As you are aware, the central theme of our cooperation in the industrial sphere, the coordination of which is undertaken by Turkey, is the production of the agricultural aircraft. I would like to emphasize with pleasure that the flight tests of the first prototype of the aircraft have been completed with success by the Turkish Aerospace Industries. The contributions to technical meetings of experts from other member countries as well as their participation were also instrumental in reaching this stage of achievement. Financial and technical contributions of our partners within the D-8 will make the production of the aircraft a D-8 joint project.

Another area of cooperation suggested by Turkey involves environmental issues. The current environmental problems and preservation of the natural balance of our planet for our future generations have become our priority. It will prove to be useful to exchange experts and to conduct training programs in this area.

Agriculture is another important area. It is important that we continue to work in this field by widening the scope of our activities in this sector and especially in food security.

We need to work together to solve the problems of our peoples living in the rural areas of our countries and provide credits and know-how to medium and small scale enterprises that play crucial role in the economic life of the rural areas. I believe we can also provide support from the UN to these efforts. We must continue to support the work on the development of human resources. The issues related to banking and finance have gained even greater importance under current economic conditions. We see that successful action has been taken in all these fields. With this in mind, I would like to congratulate the coordinator countries for their work in these selected areas.

I am happy to have learned that Nigeria will host the first workshop meeting in the field of energy. Thus, energy will also take its place among the fields of effective cooperation. The issue of energy will continue to occupy a vital spot for all countries therefore, we must induce momentum to cooperation in that field.

**Distinguished Members of Delegation,**

I would like to conclude my remarks by emphasizing my wish that our cooperation process within the framework of the D-8 will produce successful results for our peoples and countries. During Egypt's presidency, our belief of achieving further success remains firm. I thank the People and Government of Egypt for the warm welcome and the excellent hospitality during this summit with my best wishes for our peoples.

Thank you.

(\*) Translation from the original Turkish text



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MADAM SHEIKH HASINA,  
PRIME MINISTER OF BANGLADESH**



**Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**  
(In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful)

Your Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak,  
Your Excellencies the Heads of State and Government,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Assalamu Alaikum,**

Almost two years back, in Dhaka, the leaders of the D-8 had honoured me, and Bangladesh, by inviting me to assume the Chair of the D-8. I was deeply touched by the confidence that you reposed on me, my country and in our people. It was on their behalf that I accepted this great responsibility and honour.

It is befitting that we should meet in this historic city of Cairo for our Third Summit. It is the home of a civilization that transcends seven millenia. It is also the fountainhead of Islamic culture and civilization. Much that our Muslim world can be proud of originated here. In arts and culture, in architecture, literature and in the science, the contribution of Egypt to our legacy is immense. I have every confidence that we will take lessons from these achievements to move the D-8 process forward.

In the last two years, our collaborative effort, at cooperation under the umbrella of the D-8, has progressed far. What we have jointly achieved, in this new organization, is commendable. If this is an indication of what the future holds for us, the prospects are excellent. For Bangladesh, it has been a pleasure to have been associated with this process.

**Excellencies,**

In these times of globalization, liberalization, and deregulation, we have no option but to get on the growth bandwagon. The challenge for all of us is to bring into the mainstream of society those who have not had the opportunity to participate in it effectively. Only then can development and progress be sustained. We must give voice to the voiceless and political, economic and social space to those who have been denied this for more than 50 years.

As we look ahead, there are clear signs that we must not ignore. Trade is generally considered an essential building block of globalization. Yet, protesters at Seattle were able to halt this very important aspect of globalization. Now many question whether there is political will in the developed, industrialized world to make the significant concessions that can move this process forward. The gap between the



North and the South is widening. How do we narrow this gap? What sort of a new global order can guarantee fairer trade and other economic transactions?

In the field of international financial flows, governments have belatedly realized that they still have considerable powers. The manner in which one of the members of our group, Malaysia, was able to recover from the recent East Asian financial crisis has a great deal to do with the policies they adopted in defiance of the prevalent prescriptions and conventional wisdom. This also reestablishes the position taken by us in the calm of human dressing-that one size does not fit all.

In some parts of the world, advocacy of free market principles do not mean a surrender of some basic concepts of a "welfare state". In international negotiations, whether in the field of environment, in genetically modified foods in cultural affairs pure science and economics now take a back seat to concepts of total management and political economy.

Developing countries have now realized that ignoring the political and social dimensions of globalization has its costs. Whether we incur these costs will depend on the compact that we are able to build with our development partners.

A truly globalized world has to be based on give and take, and better understanding of mutuality of our interests. We in the developing world will open our markets and remove barriers as we have been doing, but are the developed countries prepared to reciprocate? We require finance that is available in the developed countries' markets; but, can we access such funds without the prospect of burning our fingers in the process? We know that the growing "digital divide" will further marginalize most of our developing countries. The question is are the developed countries prepared to work with us to bridge this gap for the common good? These are among the issues we will face in the next decade of globalization. We have to set common goals, devise common strategies and work together to maximize global welfare in this millenium. We want a win-win outcome and realization of full fruits of globalization.

### **Excellencies,**

What are countries like Bangladesh looking for in the process of globalization? The core issue for us, particularly in the Least Developed Countries, is to eliminate poverty. Our struggles for freedom were to create exploitation-free societies and to achieve economic emancipation of the common human being. Though war and armed conflict has ended in many parts of the world, the fight against poverty, hunger, malnutrition and disease still continues. As we face increasing marginalization in the world economy, our ability to tackle these challenges is increasingly weaker.

We now face new tests, such as with HIV or AIDS, that were unknown till recently. Likewise, arsenic poisoning threatens the lives of millions in our region. We had thought many diseases had been curbed, or even eliminated, but some come back in new and more menacing forms. Our advancement in science and technology must

be used to combat these maladies to ensure a better life for all. Challenges have also been posed by international crime, terrorism and the cross border abuse of drugs- all which are facilitated by the technology and communication boom.

On the subject of international cooperation to fight crime, I wish to highlight our own concern. On August 15, 1975 the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was brutally murdered by a group of armed miscreants. Along with him, the killers also murdered my mother, three brothers, sisters-in-law, my uncles, their children, my cousin and many other close relatives and associates. The only members of the immediate family who survived were my sister and I, as we were abroad at that time. On that fateful day, the people of Bangladesh lost the greatest leader that our country had ever seen and known-a leader who had led them from bondage to freedom and sacrificed his entire life in creating for them a Golden Bengal, which was his life's dream. This gruesome act of murder plunged Bangladesh into long years of darkness and military, quasi military rulers usurped state power to butcher this beautiful land. It took me more than 20 years of relentless fight, struggle and political movement to finally restore people's rights to vote in 1996 when in a free and fair election conducted under a Non-Party Caretaker Government. I was voted to office by the people of Bangladesh. Democracy in Bangladesh is new and needs help and support for its healthy growth and sustainability.

An open and fair trial has convicted and sentenced fifteen of the accused, under the laws of the land in force. The case is in the process of an appeal. Of the convicted killers, only four are currently in Bangladesh. The rest are seeking refuge and asylum abroad. In the interest of justice, morality and the rule of law, these criminals must not be allowed to seek refuge by crossing political boundaries. This is an aspect of globalization we must not ignore.

### **Excellencies,**

The Third D-8 Summit meeting is being held at an auspicious period of time. Today, we are gathered here in the beginning of a new millenium and century. We are confident that, together, we will succeed in meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and reach the goals we set for ourselves.

We thank Turkey for taking the initiative to form the D-8. The Istanbul and Dhaka Summits have succeeded in giving the D-8 firm institutional roots. Given the short period of time since our Organization has been in existence, the progress attained is commendable. The success of D-8 cooperation will lie on how well we are able to exploit the commonalities and complementarities in our economies. In the ultimate analysis, our success will be judged by what we are able to achieve. I wish to highlight a few factors that provide hope for the future.

Firstly, we share a common economic philosopy in the development process. Each of our countries emphasizes liberal economic structures and a deregulated market with the government playing a supportive role. In our economies, the private sectors serve as the engine for growth.

Secondly, there is great diversity in our resource base. Spanning a vast area from Nigeria in the West to Indonesia in the East, our countries together have a rich resource base, in human and physical terms. Given the complementarities that exist, the potential for cooperation are immense.

Finally, we desire economic cooperation among ourselves. We believe in the advantages associated with making joint and collective efforts in a sustained manner for achieving the goal of socio-economic development and poverty eradication.

In course of time, our success may be judged by the volume of trade and investment among ourselves. Given the thrust on de-regulation and gradual opening up of markets, we must encourage and support our private sectors to come forward. The recently held D-8 Business Forum provides hope for meaningful cooperation among the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in our countries. We feel encouraged by this development. There should be wider and deeper private sector collaboration amongst us to maximize trade and investment flows.

### **Excellencies,**

Since my Government assumed office in 1996, through a free and fair election, our priority has been on strengthening democratic institutions and to utilize our resources for development purposes. We have significant achievements to our credit. Our policies have enabled us to sustain growth rates at over five percent. We have attained food autarky. We hope to eradicate illiteracy within 2004. While we rely on the private sector as the engine of development, the government provides support to the disadvantaged with old-age pension, shelter for the homeless, and numerous other special programmes. We are fulfilling our commitment to the people, to build a Sonar Bangla (Golden, prosperous Bengal) that the Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, dreamt of. To supplement household level earnings we have launched a new programme of "One Household, One Farm".

Being a Least Developed Country (LDC), the success of our economic development programmes depend greatly on a supportive external environment. We require duty-free and quota-free access to foreign markets for our products. This is essential, if our export-led industrialization programmes are to succeed. At the same time, our need for foreign capital, both official and private, require priority attention. For many of the LDCs, the debt burden has become unbearable and requires meaningful relief.

The LDCs had hoped that within the framework of the WTO, their need would be considered meaningfully. So far, much of the commitments remain unfulfilled. The Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting is scheduled to be held in Qatar in November this year. In any new round of multilateral trade negotiations, we hope that the concerns of the LDCs will receive due attention. Many regions of the world have made impressive progress in recent years. However, pockets of prosperity in a sea of poverty can hardly be an ideal solution. The LDCs, who account for almost a tenth of humanity require special attention for their special needs.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I recall our participation at the Millenium Summit of the United Nations last September, when we had joined together in expressing our political will to collectively address the dehumanizing effects of abject poverty. We adopted the Millenium Declaration that contained our resolve to ensure for our children a future free from want, free from fear, and a sustainable world. The goals of the D-8 are no different. We clearly have the means and the ability to make a difference on this planet. Let us commit ourselves to build a strong and vibrant D-8, for our sake and for the sake of our prosperity. Toward that end let us dedicate our full efforts. I seek Allah's blessing to crown our efforts with success.

In our meetings today, we will review the past progress. At the same time, we will also look a new proposals, and meet issues and topics from which new insights and perspectives may emerge and chart a course for the future.

Collectively, as leaders of the D-8, we have a course to steer, and a par to seek. A very appropriate objective for us would be "destination humankind". It is for the promotion of human welfare that all our efforts should be geared.

It is an honour for me to handover the chair of our forum to His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak. I am confident that under your bold and dynamic leadership, D-8 would grow from strength to strength. On behalf of my delegation, and on my own behalf, I extend our heartiest congratulations to Your Excellency. We in Bangladesh have the highest esteem and confidence in your statesmanship. We admire you for leading the people of Egypt towards steady progress and prosperity. Your initiatives and commitment to moving the Middle East peace process forward have earned for you great respect. It is, therefore, a matter of happiness that you should take over the helm of the affairs of the Developing Eight at this juncture. We pledge you our full support.

**I thank you.**

Joy Bangla  
Joy Bangabandhu  
Long live D-8 cooperation  
**Khode Hafez.**



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. GENERAL PERVEZ MUSHARRAF,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE I.R. OF PAKISTAN**



STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
AT THE THIRD D-8 SUMMIT, CAIRO, 25 February 2001.

Your Excellency President Hosny Mubarak,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be re-visiting the beautiful city of Cairo, a cradle of history and civilization. We are touched by the warm reception and cordial hospitality extended to us in the true traditions of your great country.

The deep and abiding friendship between Pakistan and Egypt enhances for us the significance of this Summit, firstly because it is being held in Cairo and also because of the assumption of the Chairmanship of the D-8 by you, Mr. President. I am confident that under your leadership, this Summit will be a resounding success.

I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for providing leadership to our organization during the past two years.

I commend the untiring efforts of our Executive Director, Ambassador Ayhan Kamel, in promoting D-8 cooperation and advancing our common objectives.



Mr. President,

Four years ago, a shared vision motivated the leaders of our countries to gather in Istanbul to lay the foundation of the Developing-Eight, to promote economic, trade and technological cooperation among the member states. Developing such cooperation among countries of similar background and economies, is an endeavour in step with the spirit of our times. The results achieved thus far may have fallen short of the early expectations, yet, the Group has achieved a momentum, which however, must be accelerated to forge a stronger partnership for development.

Since the Istanbul Summit, the D-8 has developed significant cooperation, created a structure for coordinating its activities and identified projects, priorities and designated sectors of responsibility for each member state. The Cairo Summit has added a new welcome dimension to our cooperation by co-opting the private sector with D-8 activities.

We applaud the holding of the first D-8 Business Forum on the eve of this Summit. We are encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of entrepreneurs, investors and business-executives in this Forum. It is both a challenge and a responsibility for our governments to facilitate greater interaction among our respective private sector businesses, which will undoubtedly lead to the expansion of our mutual trade and economic cooperation. In this regard, signing of the agreement for easing of visa procedures yesterday, is a positive step. The proposals for harmonization of customs procedures and banking systems as well as the promotion of information and net-working through new mechanisms need to be

promoted and pursued. Pakistan is ready to consider lowering of tariffs within the D-8 framework, consistent with our international obligations. This idea is viable and needs to be studied for developing practical recommendations.

We should come up with new strategies for enhancing mutual cooperation in trade. We need to exploit the large potential that exists in this area. The combined volume of world trade from our eight countries exceeds US\$ 400 billion, while the intra D-8 trade comes to only US\$ 14 billion. There is thus enormous scope for expansion of our mutual trade.

Mr. President,

Pakistan as the coordinator for the sector on agriculture, has arranged a number of meetings on various agriculture related matters since the Istanbul Summit. The workshop on Food Security held in Islamabad in late 1999, adopted several recommendations designed to increase food production as well as measures to provide food resources to the poor. Pakistan also compiled a directory of Aquaculture experts, scientists and institutions. Pakistan has now offered to hold three seminars and workshops:

- on Biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity;
- on alternate/organic fertilizer;
- on conservation of farm animal genetic resources.

In the future, we hope to come up with additional proposals not only in the agriculture sector but also other areas of development to which we have assigned high priority in our country.

Mr. President,

Domestically, my Government has assigned the highest priority to the tasks of economic revival, reform, and institution building. Information technology, energy, agriculture, and SMEs have been selected for special focus as sectors of rapid growth. We have also initiated wide ranging poverty alleviation programmes, including micro-financing, food support and rural and urban development programmes. A major effort on the part of the Government is directed at improving the quality of education in the country. Without strong technological educational and information base, we cannot take advantage of the economic opportunities in the new international environment of globalized world economy.

Mr. President,

The new global environment determined by the phenomenal technological progress, rapid development and communication and information revolutions, confronts every country with new challenges. Globalization has benefited many regions and countries and has raised expectations for rapid economic growth. At the same time, it has spawned greater inequities and compounded difficulties for weaker economies. The global trade regime benefits mainly the rich and technologically advanced countries.

Besides, external debt burden is stifling economic growth in most developing countries including Pakistan. This problem has reached alarming proportion and was thus a major issue at the South Summit in Havana and at the UN Millennium Summit last year. The developing world needs debt relief on a large scale, to bring about the stability necessary for development. Our Group should join the efforts of other developing countries to address this grave problem.

Mr. President,

As we are also members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, let us take a dispassionate look at the existing scenario in the Islamic world. Our economic picture is dismal. Despite possessing 70 percent of the world's energy resources and representing a quarter of the world's population, our collective contribution to the global economy is insignificant. The collective annual GDP of the OIC countries is around US\$ 1200 billion, while that of Germany alone is US\$ 2500 billion and that of Japan is a staggering US\$ 5500 billion.

We need to ask ourselves, why this disparity? This is only due to the vast technological superiority of the developed countries, which in turn is only because of the better developed human resource. There are only about 380 universities in the entire Muslim world as against 1000 universities in Japan alone. The OIC countries produce only 500 PhDs annually in contrast to 3500 PhDs from the UK alone. Not just this, the

Muslim countries managed to produce just one percent of the world's research publications.

Human resource is our most valuable asset that needs to be nurtured and developed. In this context, I propose that the D-8 should identify various reputed scientific and technological centers in the member states for promotion of exchange programmes and preferential access to our youth. The product of these institutions will be a valuable asset for the development of the knowledge base in our countries and the Islamic world.

Here, I would like to emphasize the need for strong collaboration between the D-8 Group and the OIC. Our countries should not only develop within the D-8 framework but assume the role of an engine of growth for the Islamic World.

Mr. President,

In several regions of the world, absence of peace and stability, coupled with security concerns, heightened the challenges of development. Economic well-being flourishes in peaceful condition; instability is detrimental to progress.

For most part of the last century the Middle East has suffered because of denial of justice to the Palestinian people and the consequent Arab - Israeli conflict. The Arab and Islamic world continues to experience the pain of this tragedy and the negative impact of the conflict on economic development and well being of the people in the region. We

stand united with our Arab brothers in demanding a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problems.

Mr. President,

Peace has also eluded South Asia for over half a century. The long-standing Kashmir dispute has been universally recognized as the root cause of tensions in South Asia. Pakistan has consistently sought a peaceful resolution of the dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people, through meaningful dialogue and on the basis of international norms of justice and legality. We look for support from the Muslim Ummah for the Kashmiri cause.

The unstable Afghan situation is, indeed, also a matter of concern for us. A humanitarian disaster is impending in Afghanistan. The ongoing strife, unprecedented drought as well as additional UN sanctions have compounded the hardship of the Afghan people and has led to a large influx of refugees into Pakistan. This situation demands that the international community in general and the Islamic countries more specifically, come forward with increased humanitarian assistance to avert the looming humanitarian disaster. Afghanistan cries for peace. But peace can only be achieved through engagement and recognition of ground realities. The Taliban should be engaged rather than isolated.

Mr. President,

Our countries are endowed with enormous human and natural resources. We face similar challenges of development. Our aspirations and objectives are complimentary. Let us decide today to provide each other preferential support in the areas of economic and developmental cooperation. May Allah guide our endeavours for the realization of our full potential and for the collective progress and prosperity of our countries and the Islamic world.

I thank you all.

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. DATO' SERI ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI,  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**





**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE  
DATO SERI ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI,  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA  
AT THE D-8 SUMMIT  
CAIRO, EGYPT  
25 FEBRUARY 2001.**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I wish to thank President Hosni Mubarak for the warm words of welcome and gracious hospitality extended to me and members of my delegation.
2. We are happy to be here in this great city of Cairo with its internationally renowned rich history and cultural heritage.
3. Allow me to convey Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamadr's deep regret at being unable to attend the Summit this time due to pressing domestic commitments. It is his sincere hope that this Summit would be crowned with success.
4. May I also take this opportunity to express Malaysia's deep appreciation to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, for her excellent work in advancing the cause of D-8 during her tenure as Chairperson of the Group.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Third Summit is held, in the words of our Distinguished Chairman President Mubarak "at a crucial juncture in the development of our economies within the increasingly globalised world". Developing countries, including members of D-8, are indeed facing the onslaught of globalization with its multitudes of challenges.
6. When we first met during the First Summit meeting in Istanbul in 1997, we all made a solemn pledge to improve the position of developing countries, in the world economy. It would create new opportunities in trade relations; enhance participation in decision making at the international level and provide a better standard of living for our people. It is time that we pause and reflect on the progress that we have achieved thus far and the problems that we faced so as to enable us to chart our work in the years ahead.
7. The new millenium has brought us new impetus to focus our minds, efforts and resources to enhance cooperation so as to attain economic and social progress for our

people. The D-8 has indeed provided us with a forum to exchange views and develop potentials for greater cooperation amongst like-minded countries.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The membership of D-8 though small, straddles across Asia and Africa; it represents the needs, aspirations and interests of over 800 million people. There is much that D-8 can and should do collectively for the development of our people.

9. Many opportunities lie ahead for us to share our experience and expertise. It remains our task through D-8 to promote concerted cooperation and collaboration. Concrete action is imperative if we are to realize tangible outcomes of our joint efforts.

10. Although the downturn in the world economy is causing members of the Group some economic difficulties including undermining growth, the intrinsic potentials for cooperation remain to be exploited. There is a need for D-8 member states to take cognisance of their inner strength and to mobilise their efforts for their common good. In this regard a fundamental commitment to D-8 mission and objectives on the part of all member countries is vital for any true sense of cooperation and development to take place in the best interest of our people.

11. The past four years have brought the member states of D-8 together to develop a smart partnership. Although we are at different levels of economic development, we share a common vision and commitment. This has indeed provided us with a strong basis to develop and forge common strategies so as to fully exploit the complementarities in resource endowment and capabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

12. In pursuing cooperation for development, it is pertinent that we identify programmes that could promote national resilience and self-reliance so as to ensure that our countries and people are not exploited; that our environment are not degraded; that poverty is reduced; that there be increased standards in health care and education; that there be no destabilisation of our economies; and that there be no loss of our cultural identity. Malaysia believes that given the political will, D-8 countries could place themselves on the right track for sustainable growth. I am confident that we can succeed if we are fully committed and focused on practical projects that does not unduly tax our available resources, but serves as a building block for incremental development in tandem with our existing capacities.

13. Malaysia recognises that developmental priorities of D-8 member states may differ due to our respective geographical location and demography. Such differences however should not detract us from endeavouring to find commonalities in cooperating for development. The world economy is becoming increasingly integrated. There already exists a myriad of globally accepted international standards and agreements to facilitate interaction between states. Added to these, are the many bilateral cooperation agreements that have already been put in place. All these could

very well serve to facilitate our cooperation for development in the context of this Grouping, giving special priority to human resource development, to securing adequate funds for growth and to ensuring growth with equity.

Mr. Chairman,

14. Malaysia has always advocated that proposed projects within the D-8 should be result-oriented and private sector driven. The private sector has a pivotal role to play and our hope for success could only be achieved if the government and the private sector continue to work single-handedly and in harmony for the common good of the country. We are happy that much has been achieved through cooperation, constant consultation and the strong support and partnership between the government and the private sector.

15. Malaysia believe that effectiveness, efficiency and economy should be the keywords in promoting cooperation within the D-8. We should avoid the temptation of being overly bureaucratic in approach. We should also avoid the tendency to proliferate into various expert groups and to duplicate projects that would inevitably drain the limited financial resources available in member countries. In short, we should avoid the pitfalls faced by many other organisations that have rendered them ineffective in the eyes of the international community.

16. As a member of D-8, Malaysia is pleased to play its part in accordance with its resources by sharing its expertise and experience in the field of Islamic insurance. In this regard, Malaysia has successfully convened a workshop to draw the modus operandi and formulate strategies to promote Takaful and Retakaful. We have also conducted training programmes in conventional insurance and Takaful and in Islamic banking to enhance cooperation among members.

Mr. Chairman,

17. With the advent of communication and information technology (CIT) the world has indeed become a global village. The remarkable technological advancement in the past decade has permeated several aspects of our global economy. Rules are being redefined and new ways of doing things constantly challenge the way we think.

18. The impact of globalization is producing mixed results. It carries both opportunities and risks. Globalization is not a one way street, as manifested by the recent economic and financial catastrophe that swept through several Asian countries. The divide is real, as on one side there is the powerful and the rich, and on the other the powerless and the poor. Indeed globalization has increased wealth divisions within and between countries. Many of the poor are being marginalized. The global economy remains unchanged since Bretton Woods and continues to be prerogative and monopoly of certain countries with the IMF and the World Bank continuing to dictate terms and stripping the sovereignty of nations dependent on aid.

19. The promise that freeing up markets, deregulating finance and joining the global market would promote growth and development has failed to materialise. There is

growing resentment not only amongst members of the public but also amongst governments against multilateral bodies such as the system works only to the advantage of developed countries. The injustices and the inequities as “personified by globalization” appear to be widening and deepening. In this regard it was perhaps only natural to see the strong backlash against globalization as manifested in the street demonstrations in Seattle, Davos and Prague.

20. Malaysia believes that in a globalized world, there is a need to democratise governance even in international and multilateral bodies, not just governments. There is no doubt that globalization, if properly harnessed and practised, can result in a more equitable world order where wealth is more evenly distributed between the rich and the poor.

21. Being a trading nation, Malaysia, with its open economy, has no doubt benefited from globalization. However, the 1997 economic and financial crisis has given us a hard lesson on the perils of globalization. It is fortunate that the unorthodox method that we have employed to overcome the crisis and in support of Malaysia’s economic sovereignty has brought positive results. Thanks to the perseverance, resilience and diligence of its people, Malaysia has rebounded with much vigour. But the lesson learnt has certainly put us in good stead to handle such crisis in future.

22. The crisis that we went through has also necessitated us to take a hard look on the need to reform the current international financial architecture (IFA). The IFA should benefit both the developed and developing countries. The reform of the IFA should provide a permanent mechanism comprising developed, developing and emerging economies on global financial and monetary matters. It should also aim at establishing an early warning system to avoid the occurrence of financial crisis and the destabilisation of capital flows that would only harm the interest of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

23. I hope the Summit will succeed in forging a new strategy for member states to have a voice in interpreting and shaping a new equitable world order so as to achieve our objectives as contained in the Istanbul Declaration of 1997. It is important that we reaffirm our commitment to address our common concern and enhance our cooperation for the benefit of our people. Malaysia also hopes that the D-8 could be turned into an effective instrument that would not only avoid the clash of civilisations but promote a joyous celebration of civilisation. If at all, this is the least that we could do to contribute to global prosperity and the resurgence of the glory days of Islam long buried in annals of history.

24. In conclusion, may I invite all to pray to Allah Almighty to bestow us with the inner strength and to give us his guidance to better serve the ummah.

Thank You

15 February 2001.

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. DR. KAMAL KHARAZZI,**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE I.R. OF IRAN**



**In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**President Hosni Mobarak,  
Honorable Heads of State and Government,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be here in this august gathering. It is, indeed, my utmost desire to witness the successful conclusion of the Third D-8 Summit, as another manifestation of the joint endeavors of a part of the great Islamic Ummah for the realization of its lofty aspirations. It is also an honor for me to convey the warmest greetings and the best wishes of President Khatami to you, Mr. President, and to the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of D-8 Group. President Khatami was greatly desirous to be here personally, but in view of the need for his presence in the country, it was not possible for him to attend this meeting. Therefore, on his behalf, I wish to address this important gathering.**

**Before I begin my presentation, I should thank the People and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this meeting. May I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on presiding over D-8 Group? I hope the chairmanship of Egypt will be crowned with great success. The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to extend its full cooperation to Egypt and other member countries for the advancement of the lofty goals of our group. Let me also thank our previous chair, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Under the able**



leadership of Her Excellency Sheikh Hassineh Vajed, who has with her wisdom, played an immense role in advancing the objectives of D-8 Group during the two years presidency of her country.

Mr. Chairman,

The accelerated pace of globalization is the principal challenge of the new century, which the D-8 Group could not ignore. It has made itself felt in different aspects of our daily life. This process has traversed national boundaries in politics, economy and culture and has shortened the distance between nations as never before. In the economic sphere, globalization has strong potentials to contribute positively to the comprehensive and sustainable development of the developing countries. But when applied together with exclusionist and unilateralist approaches, it can lead to further marginalization of the developing countries, exacerbation of poverty and hunger in the South and widening the gap between the rich and the poor within and between them. Furthermore, it can increasingly deprive the most needed areas of the planet from the scarce international development resources and the minimum share of international trade.

We believe the World Trade Organization, as an instrument of globalization, has not been able to meet the expectations and aspirations of the developing countries. Therefore, reappraisal of structure, approach and methods of the work of this organization in different areas such as full implementation of existing agreements, enhancement of transparency and democracy in decision making and facilitating accession of developing countries, seems to be an undeniable imperative.

On the other hand, the recent financial crisis in the world, which also affected some of our member countries, provided a good

**lesson for all developing countries, specially the D-8 group, to ensure that the international financial system inherited from the Cold War era, lack the necessary tools and efficiency to prevent the occurrence of such crisis as well as to remove the negative impacts arising from them. It is for this reason that reforms in Bretton Woods Institutions to fit them with the new situation of the world economy is timing and imperative. The reform should be aimed at preventing recurrence of financial crisis, regulating and monitoring financial transactions and enhancing the role and participation of developing countries in their decision making process.**

**The world economy is also suffering from the slowdown in the major economies and failure of these countries in their macro economic policies. This will have a severe negative impact on the economies of other countries, particularly in regard to interest rate and exchange rates.**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,**

**Despite experiencing two destructive world wars and regional conflicts in the last century, humanity is still far from peace and tranquility in the world. At this very moment that we have gathered here, some parts of the world, especially in the Middle East, the Muslim people are suffering from the tragic and bloody conflicts.**

**The tragedy of our Moslem Palestinian brothers and sisters is one of the most chronic cases of violating international law and negation of the most basic human rights. This tragedy has entered into a grave phase and each day more and more of the brave youth and sons of this land falls prey to the brutal atrocities of the occupying power. No international body can justify the killing of**

**Palestinian people by the Zionist-occupying Regime. Outright condemnation of these brutalities by the international community and especially by the Islamic Countries is an undeniable imperative. We believe that any solution without the entire lifting of occupation and realization of the right of Palestinian people to determine their desired system of governance with the Holy Qods as its capital, will be subject to defeat.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

**We believe, in our world today, dialogue, cooperation and meeting of hearts is the best way to take us out of the present predicaments. We are pleased to be in a year, which was designated by the UN General Assembly, upon the initiative of President Khatami, for "Dialogue Among Civilizations". This initiative presents a blueprint and a paradigm for putting behind a world characterized by exclusionist tendencies and unilateral actions, to a world replete with understanding and spirit of inclusion. It is an innovative strategy for building a better and more pleasant tomorrow as well as a more civilized century and millenium for the human beings. Dialogue among civilizations negates thoughts and ideas based on discrimination, exclusion and imposition. This dialogue means acceptance of diversity, institutionalization of the rule of law in international relations, promotion of tolerance, creating of supportive climate for greater participation of people in the national and international decision making process with a view to promoting justice and equality in the world.**

**The prerequisite for acceptance of this idea, as a new way for interactions among nations, lies in rejection of the illusion that one society can have progress, development and security at the expense of**

suffering, backwardness and insecurity of other societies. Only if and when these conditions are met, we can hope that dialogue will lay the foundation for a "Global Civil Society".

Happily, our global community as a whole, has realized the benefit of such dialogue, however, there is still a long way before its fully acceptance by all.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

We are very pleased that one of the core principles for the establishment of our group that was, indeed, envisaged in the Istanbul Declaration is our choice for "dialogue instead of confrontation". Fortunately, this idea fully concurs with the concept of dialogue among civilizations. This fact demonstrates the far-sightedness and future vision of the leaders of our countries in facing the realities of our world. Accordingly, on the one side, we, as the D-8 Group, should undertake a greater responsibility to ensure the successful realization of this idea through establishment of dialogue among ourselves in various areas. On the other hand, since we are all from Islamic countries, and the Islamic thoughts and brotherhood invite us to cooperate, as said in Holy Quran:

"تعاونوا على البر والتقوى ولا تعاونوا على الإثم والعدوان", therefore, we should use all ways and means to remove any tension and establish the spirit of understanding and cooperation among ourselves, and, with others.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turning to our cooperation, I should say that four years have already passed since the establishment of our group. I am gratified to note that during this span of time, our group has successfully managed to put behind its establishment phase and now prepared to carry forward its agenda after putting in place an operational framework and working out the required programs for promotion of cooperation among the member countries. With the strong political support from the member countries, we have no doubt that the young D-8 Group has the required capability and the necessary means to achieve its intended goals. The eight Moslem member nations of our Group have many common concerns and interests in international scene. This would allow us to combine our efforts and establish effective partnership and understanding for greater cooperative relationship in order not only to take on the challenges and perils arising from globalization, but also defend our common interests in this process and make better use of its opportunities.

I am pleased to note that according to the Evaluation Report of the Executive Director, our group has managed to achieve relatively good progress since its last Summit in Dhaka. Member countries have demonstrated positive reaction in advancing the approved projects of the group. To mention a few: the current level of participation of member countries in various technical meetings is satisfactory, the final text of the "Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for D-8 Businessmen" prepared at the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with effective support of other members has been signed, the Industrial and Technological Data Bank Network, which is designed with the aim of proper use of computer software and new information technologies has been

successfully operationalized and launched on the internet, and finally other important projects such as agricultural aircraft and IMTC are at a relatively good stage of implementation. This positive trend is inspiring, and demonstrates the usefulness of our group. In fact, had we not started this cooperative arrangement four years ago, we would have had to begin today. In our view, the Cairo Summit is a watershed event in the four years history of our group. The outcome of this meeting that is coincided with the dawn of the new century and new challenges and opportunities facing the world community will be decisive for the future direction of D-8 cooperation.

Here, I would like to emphasize the urgent need for setting specific goals to promote trade exchange among our countries. This should be done through implementation of different initiatives on a step by step approach including the establishment of necessary legal infrastructures, removal of non-tarrif barriers and setting up preferential tarrif arrangements.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran being confident of the member countries' strong will for promotion of regional and multilateral cooperation, is desirous to see greater progress of D-8 member countries and shall spare no effort to this end.

Finally, I pray to the Almighty to help us to succeed in advancing the great objectives of our group. Once again, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and wish success for you and prosperity for the brotherly people of Egypt.

«والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته»



# **PART II**

## **DOCUMENTS ADOPTED**





## **CAIRO DECLARATION**





## Office of the Executive Director

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25 February 2001

### Cairo Declaration

1. We, the leaders of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey met in Cairo, Egypt on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2001 for the Third Summit of the Developing Eight Countries (D-8). We reviewed global economic developments and the state of our cooperation. We reaffirmed our determination to achieve the goals and objectives of the Istanbul Declaration.
2. The Cairo Summit takes place against the backdrop of improving economic conditions among the members of the Group, who still however have to face significant economic challenges.
3. We have been active in advocating dialogue amongst civilisations and believe that year 2001 as declared by the United Nations General Assembly to be the Year of Dialogue among Civilisations holds the hope for greater and deeper understanding and the strengthened sense of unity and solidarity amongst the states and peoples of the world community.
4. We express our concern at the negative impact on the developing countries of the slowdown in the major economies. This further aggravated the prevailing imbalances in the world economy to the detriment of our efforts to overcome the challenges we face. We therefore call upon the developed economies to spare no efforts in supporting global growth. They must refrain from protectionist tendencies in order to minimise the adverse repercussions of the slowdown on developing countries.
5. Globalisation is a reality that should be turned into a positive process, which respects the basic principles of equity and social justice for developing countries including the members of the D-8 Group. It is a matter of concern that the benefits of globalisation are at present unevenly distributed while its costs unevenly shared. We have to ensure collectively that its benefits are fairly and equitably distributed and its costs be shared in accordance with common and differentiated responsibilities of states in a global partnership.

6. Furthermore, it is vital to enhance regional cooperation amongst developing countries through the sharing of resources and expertise in order to face the challenges of globalisation. Also, in that vein, we believe that cooperation among regional organisations, and between them and international bodies is important.

7. A number of consecutive financial crises and their wide spread contagion emphasise the need to strengthen cooperation to improve the international financial system in a democratic and a transparent way, thereby ensuring the greater participation of developing countries. The current reforms of the international financial institutions should assure the effective management of the crises once they occur, and provide early warning with the aim of preventing their occurrence in order to make it more responsive to the needs and concerns of developing countries. The system should help in the mobilisation of more stable source of investment towards a larger number of developing countries, and to tame the volatility of short-term capital flows.

8. We welcome the holding of "The High Level Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development" during 2002 which is an opportunity to address related national, international and systemic issues, including mobilisation of financial resources, debt relief, and trade benefits for developing countries. The Event should also reflect enhanced cooperation between the UN and the relevant institutions, with the participation of developing and developed countries, in a true spirit of partnership, differentiated responsibilities, and mutual benefits.

9. Upholding an open, equitable, and rule-based Multilateral Trading System is a matter of crucial importance for both developing and developed countries alike. The Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting offers an opportunity to rectify the current imbalances in the Multilateral Trading System. Developed countries are called upon to fully and faithfully implement the Uruguay Round Agreements without resorting to disguised forms of protectionism and to fully operationalise Special and Differential Treatment provisions. Moreover, an improved integration of all developing countries, including least-developed countries, into the Multilateral Trading System is essential to the efficiency of the system. In this context, we emphasise the principle of universal membership of the WTO. We also call for accelerating the accession process of developing countries to the WTO, and urge WTO members to refrain from overburdening the acceding countries with excessive demands including non-economic considerations.

10. We firmly believe that developmental issues should permeate any future agenda for multilateral trade negotiations. Together, we should strive to ensure that future initiatives in the WTO should fully take into account the interest of developing countries, including improved access to technology.

11. We recognise the enormous opportunities provided by the revolution in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for development, and its role in the process of integration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's Global Economy. It is also important to stress that developing countries have exerted considerable efforts to bridge the digital divide and make use of the tools of ICT in their development programmes. We call upon developed countries to support those efforts. We further emphasise the important role of the private sector and the global research centers in enhancing and

facilitating the flow of financial resources and technical know-how, including R&D to developing countries in various domains of ICT.

12. We stress the urgent need for continued efforts aiming at reducing the growing economic and social disparities between the rich and the poor both within and among states. We reaffirm that Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains a critical element in the process of development for the majority of developing countries, and that the continuous decline in the levels of ODA is therefore a matter of serious concern. In this context, we call upon developed countries to reverse the current declining trend in the levels of ODA. We further call upon the industrialised countries to progressively increase their ODA levels to comply with the UN target of 0.7 % of GDP and to ensure an amount of not less than 0.2 % directed towards LDCs.

13. We recognise that the success of the economic development programmes in developing countries, in particular LDCs depends largely on a supportive external environment that offers enhanced access for their products to foreign markets and increased foreign capital flows, both in ODA and in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Within the WTO, special measures are required to help these countries to benefit from multilateral arrangements. Developing countries, especially LDCs and the heavily indebted countries need effective relief from the crushing debt burden. Measures need to be taken to ensure that these countries in particular are not marginalised in the digital age.

14. We continue to be concerned with the problem of external debt as a major obstacle to development. We are alarmed at the rate at which the debt-servicing burden has exceeded the debt itself, and that debt repayment has become much more burdensome to low and middle-income developing countries and LDCs. We call on our development partners to take additional measures to reduce the debt burden without negatively affecting other concessional commitments including ODA.

15. We recognise that FDI has emerged as one of the driving forces in world economy, as a source of increased productivity, transfer of technology, innovative organisational and management practices and integration in the world economy. We stress the fact that in spite of the improved policies formulated by developing countries to attract more FDI inflows; FDI is still concentrated in a few countries. Thus, there is an urgent need to create an enabling international environment conducive to developing countries' efforts, which ensures that their national investment policy instruments yield better results in this respect.

16. The LDCs deserve particular attention. In this context, we express full support to the LDCs at the Third UN LDC Conference to be held in Brussels in May 2001.

\* \* \*

17. Having reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the D-8 projects and programmes since the Dhaka Summit, we express our satisfaction with the successful completion of a number of projects and programmes, on the basis of feasibility and flexibility.

18. We met to exchange views on the future of the D-8 Group with the view to intensifying its work and the interaction of its members in various international organisations as well as cooperation among themselves. The Council of Ministers and the Commission should undertake appropriate follow-up action for the benefit of the entire Group.

19. We underline once again the importance of intra-trade among the D-8 members and express our deep appreciation for the efforts exerted in this regard with a view to doubling the present rate of the D-8 intra-trade within five years.

20. In this context, we appreciate the efforts of the Government of Egypt to set up the International Marketing and Trading Company (IMTC) and take note of the work being done on the feasibility study. We express our deepest thanks to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for its financial contribution in this regard. We request the coordinating country to continue its collaboration with the other D-8 members for the establishment of the Company at an early date with the active participation of the private sector.

21. Furthermore, we welcome the endeavours by the respective countries in a number of programmes in the following trade-related areas:

- i) The signing of the Agreement on the Simplification of Visa Procedures for Businessmen of the D-8 countries.
- ii) The proposal of establishing a framework for constructive dialogue between the business circles, shipping companies and ship-owners associations.
- iii) The establishment of a committee composed of the officials from central banks/ministries of finance or relevant authorities, which will be entrusted with the task of simplification and harmonisation of banking measures.
- iv) The finalisation of the work on the trade database, inviting the members to feed the site regularly with trade information for the common interest of the entire membership.

22. In this context, we instruct the Commission to intensify its work in the area of trade facilitation/customs procedures within the D-8 area and urge member states to respond expeditiously to the Commission in this regard. We also instruct the Commission to study trade preferences and the issue of trade barriers within the D-8 as a regional arrangement, consistent with the international obligations of the member states.

23. We appreciate the efforts of the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) for manufacturing the prototype of the agricultural aircraft as well as for conducting the tests successfully. We instruct the Commission on the basis of the principles of work sharing to look into the possibility of serial production of the aircraft taking into account its commercial feasibility, the quantitative requirements of the member countries and their likely contribution to the financing of the project.

24. We appreciate the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the successful

Launching, on the Internet, of the web site of the Industrial and Technological Data Bank Network (ITDB) and invite the member countries to regularly feed the necessary information in their national home pages. We also instruct the Commission to consider two new proposals presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran to extend this project on e-commerce and to establish a dedicated server.

25. We express our appreciation to the member countries for having organised since the First Summit more than 30 meetings, workshops, seminars, training programs etc. with a view to exchanging knowledge, experience and expertise in different fields of common interest. While calling upon the governments of member states to follow-up the implementation of the recommendations of the above-mentioned meetings, invite them to organise further meetings in these vital areas, as well as to explore the possibility of convening ministerial meetings - as appropriate - to give impetus and promote further D-8 cooperation.

26. In this context, we welcome the initiative of member countries to hold the following meetings during 2001/2002.

- i) The Working Group Meeting on Energy by Nigeria.
- ii) The training program by Malaysia on privatisation.
- iii) The training course on the residue monitoring systems and hygiene rules & quality control procedures for fish packaging proposed by Turkey.
- iv) Three workshops on bio-technology initiative for increasing agricultural productivity; alternate/organic fertilizer; and conservation of farm animal genetic resource, to be organised by Pakistan.
- v) The workshop by Indonesia on the empowerment of rural community through the use of appropriate technology for poverty alleviation.
- vi) The workshop in the field of rural development to be held by Bangladesh.
- vii) The working group meeting on the technical aspects of environment to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- viii) The workshop on SMEs to be hosted by Turkey.

27. We also welcome various new cooperation schemes proposed and discussed in the Commission and the Council of the Ministers. We ask the relevant bodies of the group to study them and proceed with implementation programmes expeditiously. The schemes include, amongst others, the following:

- i) Proposal to share technology in DNA typing presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- ii) Proposal regarding technology offer in HIV presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- iii) Proposal for creating an environment network that could tap existing information and provide a basis for the application of environmentally sound technologies found in developed countries, presented by Bangladesh.
- iv) Proposal to cooperate and coordinate between the insurance and re-insurance companies presented by Egypt and Malaysia's proposal to invite the representatives of the supervisory and regulatory authorities in the field of insurance to work out the modalities of establishing a mechanism of cooperation among them.



- v) Proposal in the field of poverty alleviation presented by Egypt which includes:
  - Designing a "Best Practices Inventory" web page on the D-8 web site.
  - Exchanging of expertise among D-8 micro-finance experts.
  - Assistance among D-8 countries for the development and utilization of information and communication technologies (ICT) for poverty alleviation.
  - Issuing a publication on trends in human development and poverty alleviation mechanisms and programmes in the D-8 member countries.
- vi) Proposal regarding "Promoting Rural Industrialisation by a Comprehensive Approach" presented by Egypt.
- vii) Proposal initiating the programme of action for effective cooperation on SMEs proposed by Turkey, and the proposal on the creation of joint venture schemes for SMEs presented by Egypt.
- viii) Proposal for cooperation in the utilisation of agricultural solid waste in energy generation presented by Egypt.

28. We call upon the governments to monitor the implementation of the above-mentioned meetings, projects and the respective programmes, so that a progress report will be presented through the relevant bodies of the D-8 to the next Summit.

29. Recognising the pivotal role of the private sector in achieving the objectives of D-8 cooperation in all fields, including trade, investment and industrial cooperation, we note with appreciation the entering into force of the Charter of the Business Forum of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry & Business Associations according to which the Forum came into existence, and invite the members which have not yet sign the Charter, to do so at the earliest. In this context, we appreciate the initiative taken by Egypt to convene, in parallel to the Third Summit, the First Meeting of the D-8 Business Forum. We also appreciate the work undertaken by the Forum under the chairmanship of the Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce. We took note of the recommendations of the Forum, as reflected in its final report. And, in the light of our resolve to promote intra-trade and closer interaction between the business community of the member states, we request the Commission to further study and pursue the recommendations of the Forum.

30. Instruct the Commission to consider establishing institutional relationship with other international/regional organisations, especially IDB, UN, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and WTO.

31. We appreciate the endeavours carried out by the Executive Director to advance the goals of the D-8 Group and the efforts of the Coordinating Unit to provide effective services to the meetings and to expedite communication between the members.

32. We endorse the arrangements made to contribute to the financing of the budget of the Coordinating Unit and decide to review these transitional arrangements including the scale of contributions before the end of the chairmanship of Egypt, taking into account the relevant decisions.

33. We express our profound appreciation to the Honourable Prime Minister of

Bangladesh and Her Government for providing able and effective leadership during the period of the chairmanship of Bangladesh, when the D-8 took a more concrete shape and grew in strength and important meetings both at official and expert levels were held successfully.

34. We congratulate the Honourable President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and His Government for assuming the chairmanship of D-8 for the next two years and assure of our fullest support and cooperation in further consolidating the D-8 Group and its development activities and extend our appreciation to the people and Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the success of the Third D-8 Summit.

35. We welcome with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the Fourth D-8 Summit in the year 2003 in Jakarta.



# **PART III**

## **PREPARATORY MEETINGS**

- A) V. SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**
- B) X. SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**



**V. SESSION OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BANGLADESH**





**Statement of the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh,  
H.E. Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, M.P.  
at the Handing Over of the Chair of D-8 Council of Ministers  
Cairo, February 24, 2001**

Your Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa  
Your Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of D-8 Member States  
D-8 Commissioners  
Executive Director of D-8  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

***Assalamu Alaikum,***

It is always a great pleasure to be once again in the midst of friends and brothers dedicated to the common task of improving the welfare and wellbeing of millions of people of the D-8 member States. It is nearly two years that we had met in a similar historic occasion in Dhaka, prior to the Second Summit, when Bangladesh took over as the chair country of the D-8. It was a rare distinction and honour that Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had accepted on behalf of Bangladesh.

Spread over three continents, the D-8 is a unique forum for economic development. It holds promise of a better and more prosperous future for the peoples of the member countries. It seeks to make the member countries more competitive and strong, to meet the onslaught of globalization. It also aims to tackle core issues of social and economic development. These include, among others, poverty alleviation and human resource development, science and technology, rural development, environment, and health.

I am happy to observe that during the last two years since the Dhaka Summit, D-8 has traveled a long way in meeting some of its targets as envisaged by its founding leaders. No one expected any spectacular success story. What we have been rewarded with is a steady and sustained progress in the implementation of the projects of the D-8. In many areas, including easing visa procedures for businessmen, establishment of the business forum, and the launching of ITDB Network there have been concrete progress. More than 30 expert level meetings have been successfully held in different locations of D-8 member countries. The Council has met twice during the period while the Commission itself has held four sessions.

Bangladesh is proud and privileged to have been associated with the D-8 during its formative stage. At Cairo, we have taken the first, and most important, step of bringing in the private sectors into our fold. Here, I refer to the Business Forum. We thank the Government of Egypt, and the General Federation of

Chambers of Commerce for taking the initiative to hold the Forum. We believe it will lead us on to still greater success under the capable and wise stewardship of brotherly country Egypt. Bangladesh, and the other member countries, will extend our fullest support to Egypt in steering the D-8 to our shared goal.

It is with these few words that I would like to declare the Fifth Session of the Council of Ministers open and also hand over the chair of the Council of Ministers to His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Excellency, you have a long and illustrious career in the international arena, for which you have earned fame. I am confident that under your wise and able leadership, our Group will achieve greater success in realizing our common goals. I wish you every success in your undertakings.

May Allah Almighty guide us in our endeavours.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION**



**Statement  
of  
H.E. Ambassador Magda Shahin  
in Presentation of the  
Tenth Commissioners' Session Report  
Before  
The Fifth Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers**

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Mr. Chairman, H.E. Amre Moussa,  
Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Your Excellencies Distinguished Ministers,  
Excellencies,

The D-8 Commissioners held their Tenth session on 22 – 23 February 2001 at which a considerable number of issues concerning projects and cooperation programs among the D-8 member countries were discussed at length. The conclusions reached are briefly set below:

The Commissioners heard the statement delivered by the Chairman of the Fourth Session of the D-8 Expert Group Meeting on Trade held on 20 – 21 February 2001, in which the chairman demonstrated the activities of the meeting and the recommendations reached by the Experts and designed to enhance trade exchange among the D-8 member countries. After that, the Chairman of the First Meeting of the D-8 Forum for Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Business Associations, held on the parallel to the Tenth Commissioners' session reviewed the discussions held at the Forum, in particular those concerning the establishment of the International Marketing and Trade Company.

The Commissioners commended the positive results achieved by the Expert Group on Trade and the Businessmen at their meetings which would be instrumental in projecting forward the activities of the D-8.

The Commissioners proceeded then to discuss at length the IMTC project. The discussion led to an agreement over the general outline of the company intended to be a joint stock company led by the private sector and would begin its activities in the field of trade promotion, then intensifying them at later stages after proving its feasibility and profitability.

Within the context of the commissioners' deliberations regarding the establishment of the International Company for Marketing and Trade as enunciated in the Cairo draft declaration, efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt in this connection have been subject of applause. It has been agreed that cooperation be sustained among the D-8 group member states and the active participation of the private sector be further encouraged for the purpose of incorporating the Company in the nearest time possible.

Concerning joint cooperation among the D-8 group member countries in the field of human resources development and the eradication of poverty, the commissioners listened to the presentation of the Social Fund for Development from Egypt regarding potential prospects in this respect. The presentation included four specific proposals that covered the installation of a web site on the internet to get acquainted with the experiences of member countries as regards micro projects and the employment of appropriate high tech slated to stamp out poverty. The proposals also addressed the issuance of a circular on the existing trends vis a vis human development mechanisms and programs.

The Commissioners voiced deep appreciation for the presentation and stressed the need to intensify cooperation in the domain of alleviating poverty and considering this target as one of the top priorities of member countries for the forthcoming stage.

The Commissioners followed up the developments of joint cooperation in the area of telecommunication, information, science and technology. They have been briefed in this context on the Iranian proposal to the effect of developing the respective D-8 website as well as the preliminary studies underway in cooperation with the International Union for Telecommunication with regard to setting up of a commercial exhibition to display the Group products on the internet (cyber mall).

The Commissioners as well reviewed the progress so far achieved in respect to the Turkish project concerning the manufacturing of the multi-purpose agricultural aircraft. They also deliberated on the economic factors connected with the inception of the commercial production of this plane. In this regard, the Iranian Commissioner proposed the establishment of a holding company to undertake the manufacturing of the above-mentioned airline to which the D-8 Group member countries will contribute either through the production of spare parts or through subscription as share-holders with the aim of partaking of the revenues of the Company.

Regarding the Agreement on facilitating the procedures of issuing visas for businessmen in the D-8 Group, the Commissioners recommended submitting the draft of the Agreement to the 5th Meeting of the D-8 Council of Ministers to be considered for signing.

The Commissioners held a joint meeting with members of the First Forum of D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Business Associations, during which a constructive dialogue between the Commissioners and the businessmen has been conducted. Mr. Khaled Abu Ismail, Chairman of the Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the Business Forum demonstrated the outcome of the meeting proceedings, and outlined the businessmen proposals aimed to engage D-8 governments in giving effect to such proposals with a view to expediting and intensifying cooperation – particularly in the area of trade exchange – among member countries.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation for the dedication and interest that marked the First Forum meeting. They promised to study thoroughly the proposals made by the businessmen and welcomed kept-up dialogue with the private sector in the future, being a cardinal partner in assuming the responsibility of implementing agreed D-8 group cooperation programs and a party having interest in making such programs a success.

Distinguished Ministers,

The 10th Commissioners' Session has attested to stepped up concerted deliberations on the Cairo Draft Declaration to be considered by the D-8 Third Summit. The discussion have given birth to a consensus on the current draft declaration which I have the honour to present it now to Your Excellencies for consideration.

Thank you....



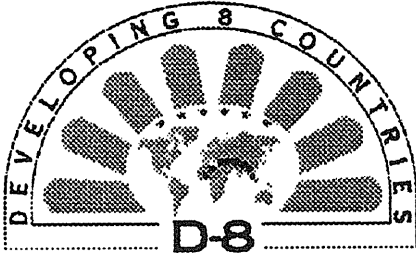


**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**





## **Office of the Executive Director**

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24 February 2001

### **STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (V. Session of the Council of Ministers)**

Mr Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Commissioners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the creation of the D-8 Grouping, nearly four years have passed. During this period which is rather short in the lifetime of any organization or grouping, the D-8 cooperation has steadily expanded and deepened. The accomplishments are really encouraging. I have detailed them in the reports submitted to Your Excellencies.

Two major projects were already implemented. The ITDB network was launched in May last. The prototype of the agricultural aircraft was manufactured and its flight tests were successfully conducted. I should however add that both projects have to be followed up. Indeed, concerning the ITDB, the member countries are required to feed as much information as possible in their national home pages in the internet and regularly update it. As for the agricultural aircraft project, the member states are yet to take a final decision on the future of this project, including its commercial production, taking into account their quantitative needs of this aircraft and on the basis of the work-sharing principles already agreed upon.

As regards the third major project, that is, the establishment of the IMTC, extensive work has been undertaken for the preparation of the feasibility study. I earnestly hope that this study is soon to be finalized and the company become operational in the coming months. At this stage, it is important for the D-8 Governments to encourage the private sector to actively participate in this project.

Moreover, several trade related issues were also addressed by the member states. The agreement on easing visa procedures for businessmen is worked out and ready for signature. A meeting of the representatives of D-8 central banks and ministries of finance is to be convened alongside the annual IMF meetings to discuss harmonisation of banking measures. A trade data base for exchange of information is prepared. The creation of a single framework in the field of shipping is agreed upon. The work on other trade related issues such as trade facilitation, cooperation for the development of SME's continues. I strongly believe that all these steps will be instrumental not only to tap existing large potential for the development of D-8 intra-trade but also help collectively meet challenges of globalisation.

Again during the same period, more than thirty meetings in the format of working groups, workshops, seminars, training programs were organized by the member states. These meetings were partly related to the three projects mentioned above, but mostly designed to share information, knowledge, experience and expertise in various sectors of cooperation agreed upon at the Istanbul Summit. The average ratio of participation in these meetings is quite satisfactory, having reached 65 percent. Moreover, the member countries have already indicated their willingness and plans to organise in the coming months several meetings of similar type for the same purpose, as enumerated in the Draft Declaration. In this context, I am pleased to mention the decision of Nigeria to organise the First Working Group Meeting on Energy in early April as a renewed commitment by this country to D-8 cooperation. The above record testifies to the political will and enthusiasm existing on the part of all the member governments to move forward and to make the D-8 cooperation a success case.

Nevertheless, as said, the better is the enemy of the good. Certainly, greater benefits would accrue to the member countries by improving the modalities of D-8 cooperation. In my evaluation report, I also submitted to the Commission certain suggestions to this effect. In this connection, I would like to particularly underline the need to consider to organise at times ministerial level meetings in various sectors to streamline and expedite decision-making on major issues, to ensure swift follow-up.

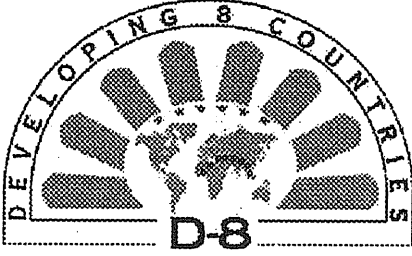
Mr Chairman, as has also been underlined on various occasions by Distinguished Foreign Ministers, full participation of the private sectors in D-8 cooperation is of vital importance since they are to a greater or lesser extent the locomotives of D-8 economies. Therefore, I deeply appreciate the establishment of the D-8 Business Forum, its first meeting having just been held in this great capital city, Cairo. I heartily congratulate the Egyptian Government for taking this initiative.

In concluding, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the excellent summit arrangements and for its hospitality.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**REPORT**  
**OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**  
**TO THE SUMMIT**





## Office of the Executive Director

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24 February 2001

### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO THE THIRD SUMMIT

1. The Fifth Session of the Council of Ministers took place on 24 February 2001 in Cairo.
2. At the Inaugural Session, H.E. the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, the current Chairman, having inaugurated the Fifth Session of the Council made an evaluation of the activities of the D-8 Grouping during the Chairmanship of his country. He underlined that the D-8 has made a steady and considerable progress since its inception. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh then handed over the Chairmanship to H.E. the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
3. The Egyptian Foreign Minister referring to the fact that the existing international system is currently passing through fundamental changes bringing with it additional challenges to the D-8, stressed that these challenges require doubling our efforts to ensure effective participation in shaping the new global architecture for more equitable sharing of benefits and proportionate distribution of burdens between the different parties. He pointed out that the D-8 Group was established on a practical philosophy that attempts to further the common interests of its member states through an action-oriented approach. The D-8 constitutes a pioneering example in this respect. So far, we have taken several steps in various fields. We have also planned to take additional steps which have to be translated into concrete action. A balance should be stricken between action and ideas.
4. H. E. the President of the Islamic Development Bank and the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference also addressed the Inaugural Session. The Chairman of the Egyptian General Federation of Commerce presented the recommendations of the First Meeting of the D-8 Forum for Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Business Associations in his address to the Council of Ministers.
5. At the Working Session of the Council, the Draft Provisional Agenda was approved. The D-8 Executive Director in his brief statement evaluated the



D-8 activities since the creation of the Grouping and emphasized the importance of closely following up the implementation of the projects and decisions.

6. The Chairman of the Commission gave an account of the discussions which took place at the Tenth Session of the Commission and of the conclusions reached. In addition, the Chairman highlighted the joint meeting held between the Commissioners and the businessmen participating in the First Forum of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Business Associations. She commended the open and free discussion that took place between them as well as the appreciation expressed by the Commissioners for the dedication and interest that marked the First D-8 Business Forum meeting.
7. The Honourable Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations appreciated the work of the Commission and its Chairman as well as the efforts of the Executive Director and his staff.
8. The Foreign Ministers renewed the commitment of their governments to further D-8 cooperation. In this context, H.E. the Foreign Minister of Nigeria explaining the domestic difficulties experienced by his country in recent years stated that this had created some ambivalence in the position of Nigeria vis-a-vis D-8 cooperation. He however assured that his Government, having now overcome these difficulties to a great extent and achieved domestic stability, was ready to fully participate in D-8 cooperation. All the Ministers welcomed this development.
9. The Foreign Ministers while evaluating the activities of the Grouping elaborated on the subjects of cooperation for which their countries were acting as coordinator. In their assessment, they particularly underlined the following points.
  - The participation of the private sector in D-8 cooperation is extremely important since it is the private sector which serves as the locomotive of the D-8 economies. Therefore, the creation of the Business Forum of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Business Associations constitute an important step in this direction. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt is to be congratulated for convening the First Meeting of the Business Forum.
  - There should be an interaction between the D-8 Governments and the private sectors. The Governments should create suitable legal environment for the private sector. In this context, the conclusion of Agreements on "Avoidance of Double Taxation" as well as the "Promotion/ Protection of Investments", harmonization of banking procedures, opening credit lines, reduction of tariffs and removal of trade barriers etc were mentioned. H. E. the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Expert Group Meeting on Trade should study the reduction of tariffs and removal of tariff

barriers in a regional framework, taking into account the WTO commitments. He suggested that this subject should be reflected in the Cairo Declaration.

- Trade represents a major area of cooperation with large potentials. The setting up of the IMTC will be instrumental to this end. The IMTC should be private sector driven. It is earnestly hoped that the company would soon become operational after the examination of the revised version of the feasibility study to be prepared in the light of the views expressed in the Expert Group on Trade and the Commission. The governments should encourage the participation of the private sector in this important project.
  - Development of information and communication technologies between the member countries and their access to important ICT centers are crucial to further D-8 cooperation. The ITDB network offers an important instrument to this end. The governments should consider providing incentives for the creation of multi-media super corridors and connecting their existing infrastructure in this context.
  - The D-8 countries like many developing countries are facing serious problem of poverty which is one of the priority areas in D-8 cooperation. Therefore, there is a need to develop poverty alleviation programmes. For this purpose, new strategies have to be formulated and cooperation be intensified between the member countries.
  - Capacity building must be incorporated in all D-8 projects. This has human, institutional and legal dimensions.
  - The agricultural aircraft project represents an important subject of D-8 cooperation in the field of industry. Therefore, the possibility of serial production of the aircraft should be considered taking into account its commercial feasibility, based upon the quantitative requirements of the member countries and their likely contribution to the financing of the project.
  - Since D-8 economies are not comparable to those of the industrialized world, the development of small and medium sized enterprises should have an important place in D-8 cooperation. Collaboration and exchange of experience in this field should be encouraged between the member countries.
  - Environment is another subject which requires attention of the Grouping. The members should continue the cooperation already started in this field.
10. The Council recommended the Draft Cairo Declaration to the Third Summit for its approval with a minor amendment .

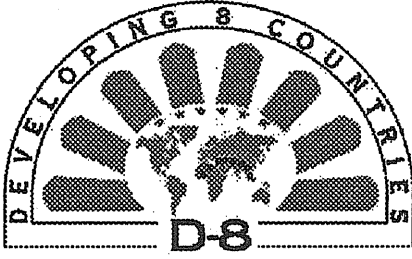
11. The Foreign Ministers and the Heads of the Delegations congratulated the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the excellent arrangements for the Cairo Summit and expressed their profound thanks for its warm hospitality.
12. At the conclusion of the meeting, the “Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States” was signed by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey.

## **X. SESSION OF THE COMMISSION**



**EVALUATION REPORT**  
**BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**





## Office of the Executive Director

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### THIRD D-8 SUMMIT

19 December 2000

### EVALUATION REPORT (June 1997- January 2001) OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Introduction

1. As would be recalled, the Distinguished Ministers stated at their last meeting in New York that the progress in D-8 cooperation has not yet reached the desired level and accordingly underlined the need to review the past performance of the Grouping. They also added that this review should lead to the maximum utilisation of the potentials of the member countries. I also believe that it is high time to review the performance of the D-8 Grouping as nearly four years have passed since its creation. Such a review will reveal our achievements and shortcomings as well.

2. This report of evaluation is prepared with a view to facilitate the discussions in the Commission, the Council and the Summit on this matter. The Commission while considering the agenda items could at the same time carry out its review and adopt appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Council. The report consists of two parts. The first part gives a short account of D-8 activities since the Istanbul Summit and the second an overall evaluation on D-8 cooperation.

#### Part I. D-8 Activities (\*)

##### Trade

3. The development of trade is, in my view, the most important and promising area, taken into account that the total volume of D-8 trade with the whole world is around USD 450 billion whereas the intra-trade hardly reaches USD 14 billion. These figures point to the great potential for the promotion of the intra-trade.

4. The Heads of State and Government decided at the Istanbul Summit held in June 1997 to establish an International Marketing and Trading Company (IMTC) as a matter of priority. Two expert group meetings were organised by Egypt in April 1999 and January 2000 to discuss various aspects of the project including financing (another one is now planned to take place just before the Cairo Summit). The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) kindly agreed to make a major contribution to the financing of the feasibility study. This study is expected to be completed by the time of the Cairo Summit.

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(\*) The list of all the technical meetings organised since the First Summit together with their country-based distribution are attached herewith.



5. Under this chapter, the experts also discussed in the course of the two meetings mentioned above several trade related issues such as easing visa procedures for businessmen, simplification and harmonisation of banking measures, shipping, trade facilitation (customs procedures), exchange of trade information, cooperation in the field of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) etc.

The questions of shipping and trade facilitation were additionally taken up in the meetings organised by Egypt and Malaysia respectively.

6. On the revised version of the draft text of the Agreement on Easing Visa Procedures, prepared by the I.R. of Iran, additional amendments have recently been proposed by some members, though being of minor nature. Thus, the draft is yet to be given final approval.

7. The recommendation to establish a committee comprising central bank officials is still under consideration and to be approved.

8. In the field of shipping, the Commission recently requested two sponsoring countries (Bangladesh and Egypt) to jointly prepare a paper on the modalities of establishing a single framework for consideration by the members.

9. Concerning the exchange of trade information, Egypt prepared a trade database on which the comments from the members are still awaited.

10. Moreover, in view of the vital importance of engaging the private sector in D-8 cooperation, the D-8 Forum for Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Business Associations was established and its Charter was adopted. The Charter has just entered into force following the signing by five members.

### **Industry**

11. The prototype of the agricultural aircraft, a project which was also agreed upon at the Istanbul Summit as a matter of priority, was already manufactured at the facilities of the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), its flight tests having also been conducted successfully. Before starting the serial production, commercial evaluation has to be completed, based upon the requirements of the member countries, as well as certification be obtained. So far, Turkey organised one working group meeting and seven Study Group meetings for the implementation of this project. More recently, a Management Committee comprising of the representatives of the delegated companies was established to sort out several issues still outstanding. Its first meeting was also held.

### **Telecommunication/Information and Science & Technology**

12. Following two expert group meetings and an additional meeting of coordination, the Industrial Technological Data Bank Network (ITDB) was officially launched on 24 May 2000. The Network utilises at this juncture internet facilities. In the network, each member has a national home page consisting of two parts, namely, the static one giving general information about each member country and the dynamic

recommendations. Moreover, the I.R. of Iran also organised the International Training Course on Islamic Banking in which D-8 members also participated.

18. In this sector, as another subject of cooperation, Malaysia recently organised a Training Course on the Malaysian Capital Market.

### **Energy**

19. Nigeria is yet to organise the first meeting of the Working Group on Energy.

20. Indonesia organised two training programs, the first one being on Solar Energy Systems for Isolated Villages (SESIV) and the second on Micro-Hydro Power Plants (MPP).

21. The Iranian Authorities offered to convene a workshop on oil and gas.

### **Environment**

22. The Working Group Meeting on Environment recently organised by Turkey made recommendations for future cooperation.

### **Health**

23. The Working Group on Health organised by Turkey set the ground for cooperation in the field of AIDS Prevention and Control.

## **Part. II. Evaluation**

24. As a general remark, I am pleased to state that the D-8 cooperation is gradually expanding and deepening. Indeed, while the number of technical meetings between the I. and II. Summits remained at 10, it increased to 24 during the period between the Dhaka and the Cairo Summits.

### **A. Implementation of the major projects**

25. The implementation of major projects such as the IMTC, ITDB and Agricultural Aircraft inevitably took longer time as they required elaborate work, studies, finance, while a production process was also involved in one. Nevertheless, taken into account quite a long period since the Istanbul Summit, I do not think that the pace of progress on these projects could be considered satisfactory. This may be explained by various reasons:

a. Difficulties in organising the preparatory meetings and in the completion of the studies, partly due to the late responses from the member countries.

b. Lack of commitment by some members to contribute to the financing of the projects. This is especially applicable to the IMTC project. Had there not been the

one furnishing data on R&D centers, consultants and contractors. While two member countries have not yet entered any information in their home pages, six members updated their data in the internet. With the exception of the host country, most however did it marginally.

On the other hand, the expansion of the project for setting up a Cyber Mall using VPN to conduct e-commerce is also considered in collaboration with the ITU.

### **Agriculture**

13. For cooperation in the field of aquaculture, another priority project, an expert group meeting was organised by Pakistan. The experts made several recommendations including the preparation of a Directory of aquaculture experts, scientists, institutions, private sector firms. This Directory was printed by Pakistan and 70 copies circulated to each member. Malaysia also organised a Training Course on Brackish Water. Moreover, the Training Course on the Development of Residue Monitoring Systems and Hygiene Rules & Quality Control Procedures related to Fish Packaging Facilities, planned to be organised by Turkey in September last, had to be postponed due to the low number of participants.

14. The Workshop on Food Security which was organised by Pakistan made several recommendations for exchange of information and experience. More recently, the I.R. of Iran convened another Workshop on Food Security with Special Emphasis on Food Safety.

### **Human Resources Development and Poverty Alleviation**

15. Indonesia organised the Seminar on Poverty Alleviation and the Joint Meeting of Experts and Decision Makers on Social Safety Nets, both having made a number of recommendations to the Governments.

Indonesia also offered to organise in May next year a workshop on the empowerment of rural community through the use of appropriate technology for poverty alleviation.

### **Rural Development**

16. An expert group meeting organised by Bangladesh considered several proposals for rural development. The Commission decided to implement the proposal "Promoting Rural Industrialisation by Comprehensive Approach" as a matter of priority. A revised version of this project is to be prepared by the two sponsoring countries (Bangladesh and Egypt). Thereafter, a joint approach would be made to UNIDO to seek its technical and financial assistance for the implementation of this project.

### **Finance- Banking-Privatization**

17. Malaysia organised three activities in this sector, namely, the International Workshop on Re-takaful, the Seminar on Islamic Banking and Finance as well as the Training Program on Conventional Banking. The participants made several

IDB's contribution, the financing of the feasibility study could, I think, have presented serious problem.

In the case of the agricultural aircraft, the problem of financing has until now not come to the fore since the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) alone met all the expenses including financing the feasibility study and the manufacturing of the prototype, by having so far spent an amount of USD eight million from its own budget. However, TAI has recently made it clear that it is now impossible to continue to finance the subsequent stages of the project prior to commencing serial production, i.e. manufacturing of the second prototype, certification of the aircraft etc. unless other members indicate their readiness to offer financial support. Secondly, TAI also pointed out that it is practically impossible to start the commercial phase (serial production) without a well defined overall market potential, based on the specific requirements of the member countries for this aircraft. At this critical juncture at which these problems require urgent attention, the participation of only two members in the first meeting of the recently established Management Committee composed of the representatives of the delegated companies created, I believe, a discouraging effect. I earnestly hope that this is not an indication of diminishing interest on the part of the member states in this important project.

c. Another reason is related with the fact that experts while exploring possibilities of cooperation in a particular field and discussing major issues involved do not see in themselves the authority to take commitments on behalf of their governments. I believe, holding ministerial level meetings in various fields from time to time will not only be instrumental to facilitate decision-making by the members but may also offer, by drawing public attention, unique opportunity to enhance the image of D-8 and thus stimulate interest and enthusiasm for D-8 activities both in government departments and private sectors.

As a matter of fact, at the Dhaka Summit, the Heads of State and Government directed the Commission "to further explore the possibilities of promoting trade among the D-8 member countries, among others, through the convening of a meeting of Ministers of Commerce/ Trade Economy at an early date...". However, not even a single meeting at ministerial level in any sector has so far been organised.

26. As underlined on several occasions, participation of national chambers of commerce & industry and agriculture, R&D centers, as well as associations of contractors and consultants, and other non-governmental bodies and institutions in D-8 cooperation is vital. Nevertheless, one could not say that we have been able to ensure their effective involvement. I believe, this has also affected the performance of the ITDB Network. High level ministerial meetings referred to above will certainly help encourage them to effectively participate in D-8 cooperation.

### **B. Exchange of Information and Expertise**

27. As must have been seen in Section II above, an important mode of D-8 cooperation is the exchange of information, experience and expertise which usually takes place in the course of seminars, workshops, training programs, etc. organised by the member countries in various fields of common interest. Yet, it is difficult to say

that the attendance in these events has reached the desired level. Indeed, the rate of participation in these activities varies from sector to sector and reaches an average of about 65 percent (please see the Annex). In case, the host country is excluded, the ratio comes down to just below 60 percent. It can not, in my view, be considered fully satisfactory.

28. This can be attributed to several reasons such as lack of common interest in certain areas, short prior notice given by the host country, budgetary constraints and possible delays in bureaucratic transactions and in the transmission of messages between home offices.

a. In order to generate greater interest in expert meetings, workshops, seminars, training programs, the Heads of State and Government decided at the Dhaka Summit that “in selecting project in various sectors, we should adopt a pragmatic and flexible approach aiming at the optimum utilisation of the available resources and capabilities.” Moreover, they agreed that member countries should as far as possible “indicate their priorities in relation to each sector to facilitate the selection of suitable projects and programs for cooperation.” I believe, it would be advisable to sound out areas of common interest for D-8 members before organising the activities mentioned above. In this case, it will also be easier for governments to justify the participation of their experts and to meet the funding of their expenses.

b. It is also important to give a prior notice of at least two months in organising meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. so that governments would have enough time to designate their participants and complete bureaucratic formalities and that participants would be able to make the necessary preparations i.e. working out their notes and papers.

c. As for the transmission of messages: Responses by the members are, in several instances, given with long delays. It may be explained partly with the late transmission of messages between foreign ministries (as the national coordinating units ) and relevant technical bodies in public and private sectors, and partly with the lack of a follow-up system. Due to this, the implementation of projects slows down and activities are at times postponed. (Please see the footnote.2 in the Annex)

I presume that the member countries must have designated the focal points in their relevant departments or institutions for each sector or project. If not yet established, a mechanism of speedy transmission and a follow-up system are, I believe, needed between the foreign ministries and these focal points not only to cut down long delays in responses but also to pursue the implementation of projects.

#### **ج. Follow up of the decisions and recommendations**

29. As stated above, the experts participated in several seminars, training courses, workshops mentioned in Chapter II. made valuable recommendations to the governments, private firms and institutions for exchange of information and for sharing experience, expertise and knowledge. Yet, it is difficult to assess what follow-up are given to these recommendations and to what extent member countries take benefits from these meetings. (This is also applicable to the utilisation of the

Directory of experts, scientists, institutions, private firms which was printed in the field of aquaculture. In this connection, it may be worth mentioning that recently the Iranian Fisheries Company indicated its intention to initiate cooperation in the field of seaweed with the Indonesian and Malaysian experts) The Commission at its VII. session requested the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the recommendations of the two seminars in the field of poverty alleviation and of the two training programs in the field of energy, all four organised by Indonesia, as well as of the recommendations of the Workshop on Food Security organised by Pakistan. So far, only few members have informed of the actions taken by their authorities on the implementation of the recommendations of the two training courses organised in the energy sector. However, concerning the Workshop on Food Security and the two meetings on poverty alleviation, no response is received from any member. I believe that we have to adopt a system of regular reporting to each Summit on the implementation of recommendations, based on the information to be provided by the members, and spread this practise to all activities. This will not only be helpful to measure the use of these meetings designed to exchange information and expertise but also create an urge on the member countries to effectively carry them out.

#### **D). Liaison with International Organisations**

30. At the First Summit, the Heads of State and Government decided that “an appropriate mechanism be established to liaise with other relevant international organisations particularly with the Organisation of Islamic Countries”. In fact, as D-8 we took the step to establish liaison with the OIC though the matter could not yet been concluded.

31. As for other international organisations, we have not taken any step to this effect, except a few initiatives by some members with certain organisations (FAO, ITC), having invited their experts to participate in a couple of technical meetings of D-8.

32. I believe, the establishment of formal relationship with certain international organisations is important not only to better utilise their expertise but also explore the possibilities of seeking financing for D-8 projects. To cite an example, the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) established liaison with several organisations such as UN, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, OIC/IDB, UNFPA (UN Population Fund), UN Drug Control Programme, UNICEF by signing a memorandum of understanding with each. I think, D-8 could also consider to gradually establish liaison with the UN, UNDP, UNIDO, FAO in addition to OIC and IDB.

**LIST OF THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS  
SINCE THE FIRST SUMMIT AND PARTICIPATION**

Meetings	Date & Venue	Ban	Egy	Ind	Iran	Mal	Nig	Pak	Tur	Num of part.
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>										
WG Meeting on Coop. for the Dev. of Inland and Coastal Aquaculture (*)	17-19 Feb 1998 Islamabad	X	X			X		X	X	5
Introductory Course on Brackish Water	17 July-18 Aug 1999 Kuala Lumpur	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	8
Workshop on Food Security (*)	24-26 Nov 1999 Islamabad	X	X					X	X	4
Workshop on Food Security with a Special Emphasis on Food Safety	16-20 Oct 2000 Babolsar/Iran		X		X				X	3
Average participation ratio										% 63
<b>INDUSTRY</b>										
II. Session of the WG on Industry "Agricultural Aircraft"	24-25 Feb 1998 Ankara		X		X	X		X	X	5
I <sup>st</sup> Session of the Study Group on Agricultural Aircraft	2-3 June 1998 Ankara		X		X	X		X	X	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Study Group	10-11 Nov 1998 Ankara		X		X	X	X		X	5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Study Group	19 Feb 1999 Ankara		X		X		X		X	4
4 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Study Group	11 June 1999 Ankara		X		X	X	X		X	5
5 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Study Group	27 October 1999 Ankara		X		X				X	3
6 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Study Group	24 Feb 2000 Ankara		X				X		X	3
7 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Study Group	27 June 2000 Ankara			X	X		X		X	4
Meeting of the Management Committee	11-13 Sep 2000 Ankara			X			X		X	3
Average participation ratio										%51

**Notes:**

1. In the preparation of this chart, only participation of experts from capitals is taken into account.
2. (\*): Earlier postponed meetings (12 meetings out of 34 were postponed mostly due to lower participation)
3. The number of meetings between the I.-II. Summits is 10, while that of the II.-III. 24.

Meetings	Date & Venue	Ban	Egy	Ind	Irn	Mal	Nig	Pak	Tur	Num of part.
<b>TRADE</b>										
II. Expert Group Meeting on Trade (*)	6-7 April 1999 Cairo	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	7
Expert Group Meeting on Shipping (*)	15-16 Nov 1999 Alexandria, Egypt	X	X		X	X		X	X	6
The Seminar on Trade Facilitation and Simplification of Customs Procedures	9-12 Nov 1999 Kuala Lumpur	X	X	X	X	X			X	6
III. Expert Group Meeting on Trade (*)	19-20 Jan 2000 Cairo	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	7
IV. Expert Group Meeting on Trade (yet to take place)	20-21 Feb 2001 Cairo									
Average participation ratio										% 81
<b>TELECOM INF &amp; SCIENCE TECH</b>										
WG Mtn. to Discuss Prac. Steps of the Est. of an Ind. and Tech. Data Bank Network (*)	10-12 Aug 1998 Tehran	X	X		X	X		X	X	6
II. Workshop on ITDB Network	1-2 Dec 1999 Tehran	X	X		X	X		X		5
One Day Workshop for the National Administrators of D-8 Website (*)	24 April 2000 Tehran		X		X					2
Average participation ratio										% 54
<b>FINANCE BANK. &amp; PRIVAT.</b>										
The International Seminar on Takaful	30 Mar-1 Apr 1998 Kuala Lumpur	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
International Workshop on Retakaful	31 May-1 June 1999 Kuala Lum.	X	X		X	X	X			5
Seminar on Islamic Banking and Finance	2-4 June 1999 Kuala Lumpur	X	X		X	X	X			5
Training Program on Conventional Banking	13-24 Sep 1999 Kuala Lumpur	X		X	X	X		X	X	6
D-8 Technical Program on the Malaysian Capital Market	9-13 Oct 2000 Kuala Lumpur		X	X		X		X	X	5
International Training Course on Islamic Banking	8-18 Oct 2000 Tehran	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	7
Average participation ratio										% 75



Meetings	Date & Venue	Ban	Egy	Ind	Irn	Mal	Nig	Pak	Tur	Num of part.
<b>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>										
I. Working Group Ming on Rural Development and Micro Credit (*)	20-21 Oct 1997 Dhaka	X	X		X			X	X	5
Average participation ratio										% 63
<b>POVERTY ALLEVIATION</b>										
Workshop on Poverty Alleviation (*)	16-19 June 1998 Jakarta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
D-8 Joint Meeting of Experts and Decision Makers on Social Safety Nets	13-17 August 1999 Jakarta	X	X	X	X	X			X	6
Average participation ratio										% 88
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>										
Working Group on Environment (*)	20-21 Sept 2000 Istanbul/Turkey		X		X			X	X	4
Average participation ratio										% 50
<b>HEALTH</b>										
Meeting on AIDS Prevention and Control Program	19-22 October 1998 Ankara		X	X	X	X			X	5
Average participation ratio										% 63
<b>ENERGY</b>										
Training Program on Solar Energy Systems for Isolated Villages (SESIV) (*)	29 Nov-2 Dec 1999 Yogyakarta/Indon.		X	X	X			X		4
Training Program on Micro-Hydro Power Plants (MPP) (*)	22-25 Feb 2000 Bogor/Indon.	X		X	X	X		X	X	6
Average participation ratio										% 63
<b>AVERAGE RATIO OF PARTICIPATION IN ALL MEETINGS</b>										
										% 65

**COUNTRY-BASED DISTRIBUTION  
OF THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS SINCE THE FIRST SUMMIT**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of meetings</b>
Bangladesh	1
Egypt	4 (*)
Indonesia	4
I.R.of Iran	5
Malaysia	7
Nigeria	-
Pakistan	2
Turkey	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>

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(\*) One meeting is yet to take place on 20-21 February 2001.

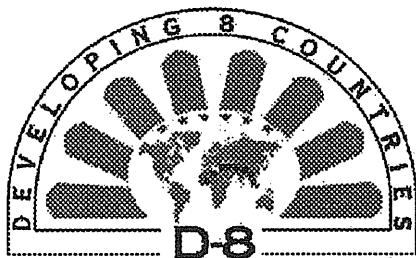


**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**





## **Office of the Executive Director**

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22 February 2001

### **STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR X. Session of the Commission**

I did not see the need to prepare a distinct report to this session of the Commission as only one month has passed since the IX. Session which took place at Dhaka. During this short period of time, I have received just a few communications from some member countries which were duly reported to all the Commissioners. In this context, it is perhaps worth to mention that the Nigerian Authorities have recently decided to organise the First Working Group Meeting on Energy on 3-5 April 2001. I welcome this decision also as a renewed commitment by Nigeria to D-8 cooperation.

The Commission already reviewed all the subjects of cooperation a month ago. So, there remains now two major items in the agenda which may consume much time of the Commission. The first is the review of the trade related issues including the IMTC project, in the light of the summary note of the draft feasibility study which was recently circulated and the Report of the IV. Expert Group Meeting just held in Cairo.

The second is the consideration of the draft Cairo Declaration. The revised version of the first part prepared by Egypt is substantial and all comprehensive for which I congratulate the Chairman. For the reasons of public attention, this part may perhaps be slightly condensed without losing the substance. The revised version of the second part is streamlined and restructured in the light of the comments made at Dhaka as will be seen in the outline before you.

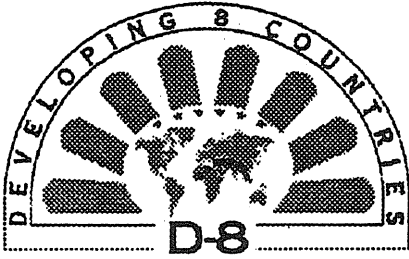
I also attach importance to the evaluation of the outcome of the First Meeting of the Business Forum.



## **REPORT OF THE COMMISSION**







## Office of the Executive Director

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### REPORT OF THE TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION TO THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (22-23 February 2001)

1. The Tenth Session of the Commission was held in Cairo, Egypt on 22-23 February 2001. All the member countries attended the meeting which was convened to prepare Third D-8 Summit.
2. At the beginning of the meeting, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Toufiq Ali, the Commissioner of Bangladesh, handed over the Chairmanship to H.E. Ambassador Dr. Magda Shahin, the Commissioner of Egypt. In his statement, Ambassador Toufiq Ali shared his experience during their Chairmanship with his colleagues and made a short evaluation of D-8 cooperation. The Commissioners paid tribute to him for his stewardship as the Chairman of the Commission during the past two years.
3. In her opening statement, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Magda Shahin, the Chairperson of the Commission, highlighted the significant progress so far achieved in D-8 cooperation although only four years passed since the creation of the Grouping. She said that the D-8 Grouping had a unique character by focusing on specific projects which were economically feasible and workable. She added that the Grouping should maintain this practical and action-oriented approach in its future work. Ambassador Shahin while reviewing the activities of the Grouping underlined the importance of the expansion of D-8 intra-trade and referred in this context to the IMTC project and other trade related issues.
4. The Commission considered the draft provisional agenda and adopted it with the amendments as will be seen in the attachment.
5. In his brief statement, the Executive Director while referring to few activities during the period of about one month since the Ninth Session, drew particular attention to the decision taken by the Nigerian Authorities to convene the First Meeting of the Working Group on Energy in early April. He said that this was a welcome step as a renewed commitment by this country to D-8 cooperation. He added that there were two major items in the agenda, namely the consideration of the report of the Fourth Expert Group on Trade and the Draft Cairo Declaration which require particular attention by the Commission.

**Agenda Item 4. Presentation by the Chairman of the IV. Expert Group Meeting on Trade on the work of the Group and consideration of its Report**

6. The Commission first heard the statement of the Chairman of the Fourth Expert Group Meeting on Trade on its work. Thereafter, the Chairman of the Business Forum which was convened simultaneously with the Commission meeting reported the discussions which took place in the Forum on the IMTC project and other trade related issues. The texts are attached herewith.
7. The Commissioners, having deeply appreciated the work done by the Expert Group on Trade as well as the Business Forum, held extensive discussions on the IMTC project in the light of the conclusions of the two reports mentioned above. There emerged a broad agreement that the feasibility of the project should be explored in the following lines:
  - The Company should be private sector driven.
  - It should be in the form of joint stock company operating in free zone.
  - It is preferable that each country should have equal share to reflect benefits, responsibilities and representation. Unfilled subscriptions by a member should be covered by the rest, if need be, to maintain the principle of equal share.
  - The company should have three functions namely, trade promotion including the dissemination of trade information, marketing and trade support, direct and indirect trade.
  - These activities should proceed in a timely and phased manner. At the initial stage, it should engage in trade promotion.
8. It is important that the governments should encourage the private sector to take the necessary steps for the establishment of the company and to utilize its services when established.
9. The Commissioners agreed that FINBI should prepare a revised version of the feasibility study in the light of the comments made at the IV. Expert Group Meeting, including revised financial implications for the initial stage at which trade promotion activity will be conducted.
10. It was also suggested that in the meantime, the services of the Egyptian Trade Information Center could also be utilized by D-8 businessmen, as in the case of Malaysian companies having already established links with this center.
11. The Commission also considered various trade related issues such as the setting up of a Shipping Business Forum, elimination of customs barriers, extension of credit lines, establishing direct banking links between D-8 countries and simplification of banking procedures etc., in all of which the private sector is expecting action from the D-8 governments as detailed in the report of the Business Forum. The Commissioners having reviewed the issues mentioned above decided to continue its work on them.

## **Agenda Item 5. Human Resources Development and Poverty Alleviation**

12. The Egyptian expert made a presentation on behalf of the Managing Director of Social Fund for Development (SFD) on possible areas of cooperation among the D-8 countries in the field of poverty alleviation (the text is attached herewith). She made the following four concrete proposals:

- Best practices in poverty alleviation on the D-8 web-page, designed to share the successful experiences of the member countries in alleviating poverty, by focusing on mechanisms and processes that are conducive to combating poverty and marginalisation.
- Micro-finance initiative for D-8 countries, which is aimed at exchanging experience among micro-finance experts in order to examine the obstacles to micro-finance and the means to strengthen micro-finance infrastructure.
- Assistance among D-8 countries for development and utilization of information and communication technologies for poverty alleviation to promote effective strategies to this end.
- Publication on trends on human development and poverty alleviation in the member countries in order to provide policy makers with relevant, timely and accurate information as well as to strengthen the link between the data producers and data consumers, the researchers and the policy makers.

13. The Commissioners having deeply appreciated the presentation made by the Egyptian expert from SFD, emphasized that poverty alleviation should be one of the priority objectives in D-8 cooperation. Thereafter, they have had extensive discussions on the subject and made the following points:

- Several member countries already have successful poverty alleviation programs which could be of benefit to others. Moreover, under the D-8 cooperation, some workshops and seminars were in the past organized by the members. Future cooperation should be built on what has already been achieved.
- The four proposals made by Egypt should be taken up in a future meeting. In this connection, it was suggested that the workshop which would be organized in July by Indonesia on the empowerment of rural community through the use of appropriate technology for poverty alleviation would provide a suitable opportunity to discuss them. The Indonesian Commissioner stated that this workshop might be prolonged for an additional day to this end.
- Without an effective mechanism which could promote collective action and approach, it is not easy to seek financial assistance from international organizations in this field.
- Indonesia as a coordinating country on Human Resources Development and Poverty Alleviation presented and circulated a progress report on D-8 cooperation

in this field and kindly requested those member countries that have not yet done to respond to the questionnaires circulated for this purpose.

- Concerning the utilization of the existing web-sites, the attention was drawn to the UNESCO's MOST web-site.
- Pointing to the different criteria in defining poverty such as the "least calorie" or "average cost of living", the need was stressed to develop a common understanding (standardization) in the definition of this concept.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Telecommunication and Information & Science and Technology**

14. The Commissioner of Iran stated that the ITDB web-site was gradually expanding and the number of visitors to the web-site was increasing. Taking into account the wish expressed by the members at the Ninth Session of the Commission for the use of the servers which may be existing in the member countries instead of that of the American company which was at present being used in the ITDB web-site, he circulated a study on the cost requirement of a dedicated server for the D-8 ITDB web-site. He expressed the hope that the member countries might come up with alternative proposals including their estimated cost.
15. Referring to the cyber mall system, he stated that their authorities had more contacts with the ITU on this subject and the organization was conducting a preliminary study on the possibility of e-commerce among the member countries, which would also address the cost of the system.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Agricultural Aircraft**

16. The Turkish Commissioner, referring to his letter circulated before the Ninth Session of the Commission to seek the response from the member countries to the questions raised therein, said that so far only Pakistan gave its reply. He requested the other members to kindly do the same as soon as possible so that a final decision could be taken on the future course of action in this project.
17. The Commissioner of Iran said that a valuable work has been done by TAI to manufacture the prototype. Several members have either set up their own facilities already or are in the process of setting up. However, these individual facilities in the member countries do not have sufficient market to start the commercial production. Therefore, it is necessary to combine the markets of the member countries for a single D-8 project. He proposed that a consortium or holding could be established under which interested member countries might either develop aircraft jointly by producing certain parts or they might share the investments to divide the benefits. He promised to circulate their proposal in writing.
18. The Turkish representative said that their authorities would consider this proposal carefully, adding that there still was a need to find out beforehand the potential market for such an aircraft.

19. Some Commissioners referred to certain problems related to the implementation of the project, especially its financing. In this connection, it was said that the financing from the OIC or other international institutions might be sought under the D-8 Governments' collective guarantee.
20. On the other hand, Egypt suggested that the cooperation in the field of industry be expanded by initiating new projects besides the agricultural aircraft and proposed Turkey to consider organizing a workshop or a meeting to discuss the possibilities in this respect. The Turkish Commissioner stated that they had in the past planned to organize a meeting of the Ministers of Industry on the occasion of the inaugural flight of the prototype of the agricultural aircraft to review the progress on the agricultural aircraft as well as to discuss new industrial projects and that this meeting was however postponed due to the lack of interest at that time. He added that he could now suggest to his authorities to reconsider the convening of this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Consideration of the Draft Cairo Declaration.**

21. The Commissioners considered the Draft Cairo Declaration and recommended the final text to the Council of Ministers.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Joint Meeting with the Business Forum and Evaluation of the Outcome of the First Meeting of the Business Forum**

22. The Commission welcomed the holding of the First Business Forum. The Commissioners had a joint meeting with the representatives of the Business Forum and listened to the presentation of its report. They expressed their deep appreciation of the work done by the Forum and had a useful discussion on the various proposals made in the report. Emphasizing the importance of the participation of the private sector in D-8 activities, the Commission agreed to study and further pursue the recommendations made by the Forum.

#### **Agenda Item 10. Consideration of the Draft Agendas for the Ministerial and Summit Meetings**

23. The Commission having considered the draft agendas recommended them as proposed by the host country, to the Council and the Summit.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business.**

24. The Commissioner of Malaysia informed the Commission that they would organize the Course on the Management of Privatization on 20-25 August 2001.
25. The Commission recommended the final text of the "Agreement on the Simplification of Visa Procedures" to be signed at the Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

26. The Delegation of Pakistan circulated their proposals to organize the workshop on "biotechnology initiative for increasing agricultural productivity", the seminar on "alternate/organic fertilizer" and the seminar on "conservation of farm animal genetic resources".
27. The Delegation of the I.R.of Iran also circulated their proposals to share technology in DNA typing and as well as in HIV.

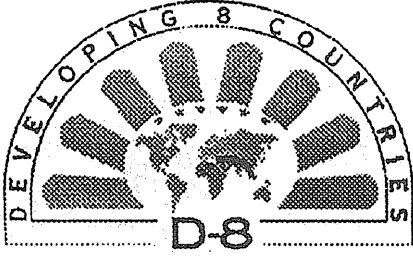
**Agenda Item 12. Closure of the Meeting**

28. The Commissioners having adopted the Report of the Commission expressed their appreciation to the Chairperson for conducting the meeting of the Commission in an efficient and competent manner. They expressed their profound thanks to the Government of Egypt for the excellent organizational arrangements for the Summit and its hospitality.

## **AGENDA OF THE MEETING**







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**AGENDA  
X. SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
(22-23 February 2001, Cairo)**

1. Opening statement by the Chairman of the Commission
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statement by the Executive Director
4. Presentation by the Chairman of the IV. Expert Group Meeting on Trade on the work of the Group and consideration of its Report.
5. Human Resources Development and Poverty Alleviation.
6. Telecommunication and Information & Science and Technology
7. Agricultural Aircraft
8. Consideration of the Draft Cairo Declaration
9. Joint Meeting with the Business Forum and Evaluation of the Outcome of the First Meeting of the Business Forum.
10. Consideration of the Draft Agendas for the Ministerial and Summit Meetings
11. Any other business.
12. Closure of the Meeting.