

REPORT OF THE 26TH SESSION OF D-8 COMMISSION
DECEMBER 16-17, 2008
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The Government of Malaysia organized and chaired the 26th Session of Developing Eight (D-8) Commission in Istanbul, Turkey on December 16-17, 2008. The meeting was attended by delegates from Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

1. Welcoming Remarks by the D-8 Commissioner of Malaysia.

H.E. Amb. Dato' Mohammad Kamal Yan Yahaya made welcoming remarks. (Annex II)

2. Guest Speakers from Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) and D-8 Federation of Chambers of Commerce

Ms. Zuhul Mansfield, Chairperson of Turkish-Egyptian Business Council and Mr. Abdulreza Hanjani, Secretary General of D-8 Federation of Chambers of Commerce made presentations on Enhancing cooperation among private sector business entities.

3. Adoption of the Draft Agenda.

The Commission adopted its agenda (Annex III).

4. Statement by the D-8 Secretary General

H.E. Dr Dipo Alam, the Secretary General of D-8 presented his Report on the work of the Organization and activities of the Secretariat since July 2008 (Annex IV).

5. Consideration of Calendar of Events

a. The Commission adopted the Reports of the following activities:

- 4th Working Group on Industry held on November 10-11, 2008 in Indonesia,
- 1st Working Group on Mining and Minerals held on December 11-12, 2008 in Indonesia.

b. Calendar of Events 2009

- A Meeting to initiate cooperation between D-8 scientific institutions, research institutes and universities in the 1st week of April in Nigeria;
- A Meeting on Migrant Workers and Remittances in Bangladesh;
- First D-8 International Tourism Investment Forum in the 1st week of March in Iran;
- Two events in Malaysia on the margins of the Global Islamic Finance Conference and International and Regional Syariah Dialogue.
- D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Food Security, on February 25-27 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Experts Meeting on Automotive Industry in the last week of February in Iran;
- D-8 Satellite Meeting on HIV/AIDS back to back with International Conference on AIDS in the Asia Pacific, in Indonesia;
- Working Group Meeting on Transportation in Turkey.
- Working Group Meeting on Health Tourism during the 2nd International Health Tourism Congress in February in Antalya, Turkey.
- D-8 Ministerial Meeting and Working Group Meeting on Marine and Fisheries Cooperation on 13-14 May in Indonesia.
- First Ministerial Meeting on Industry in July in Tehran, Iran.
- A meeting in Egypt on one of the following topics:
 - Micro – Insurance: to provide services to farmers and other limited income families.
 - Banking insurance and studying the D-8 countries experience in this field
- The Commission welcomed the Secretariat's preparation of the matrix of programs and activities based on the Roadmap, Declarations and other outcome documents and urged Member countries to submit responses.

c. Decisions

- Secretariat to explore the possibility of cooperation between D-8 and UNIDO-ICHET and to report to the next meeting of the Commission.
- Egypt is the prime mover for cooperation in energy for two years starting 2009. Its main objective is to coordinate and activate the resolutions agreed upon during D-8 energy meetings.
- Indonesia is the prime mover for cooperation in industry for two years starting 2009.
- Egypt to provide ToR for the establishment of a Center for Energy Studies in Cairo, Egypt.

6. Base Year for tariff reductions under D-8 PTA

The Commission agreed that the Base Year for tariff reductions is 1 January 2008.

The Commission urged that the PTA should enter into force by the end of 2009.

7. D-8 Charter

The Commission requested the Secretary General to submit a draft Charter to the Commission at its next meeting.

8. Consideration of Establishing D-8 Business Council

The Commission took note of the proposal to establish a D-8 Business Council. It requested the Secretary General to prepare the Terms of Reference in consultation with Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK) and the D-8 Federation of Chambers of Commerce and circulate among Member States for comments and consultation with the private sector.

9. Financial situation of D-8 Secretariat in 2008.

The Commission urged Member countries to settle their outstanding dues at the earliest.

The Commission requested the Secretary General to make a report on how to resolve the question of long outstanding dues.

10. Budget 2009 of D-8 Secretariat

The Commission adopted the Budget for the Secretariat for 2009 in conformity with Article 5 of Chapter II of Financial Regulations of the D-8 Secretariat (Annex V).

The Commission requested the Secretary General to prepare and submit a draft budget proposal for 2010 to the Member countries by March 2009.

11. Date and Venue of the 27th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 12th Session of the Council of Ministers

Malaysia will host the 27th Session of the Commission on 13-14 June 2009 and the 12th Session of the Council of Ministers on 15 June 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, subject to confirmation of the dates.

12. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 26th Session of the D-8 Commission

The Commission adopted its Report.

13. Any Other Business

The delegation of Indonesia made a presentation on the World Ocean Conference to be held in Indonesia in May 2009. The delegation also informed the meeting on the planned D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Marine and Fisheries to be held back to back with the World Ocean Conference. The delegation invited all relevant D-8 ministers to attend both events.

The delegation of Iran invited all D-8 members to attend the International Conferences on Investment, Tourism among Muslim countries, as well as Halal Food, to be held in Tehran on 28-30 April 2009.

The Secretary General informed the Commission about cooperation with the International Youth Foundation on drafting grant proposals to be presented to international organizations.

The Commission agreed to extend to the staff of the Secretariat the same local hospitality arrangements provided to Member countries.

The Commission took note of Turkey's proposal to establish a D-8 Humanitarian Assistance Forum to be organized by the Turkish Red Crescent Society. Turkey will provide information on this proposal.

14. Closing

The Chairman made a closing statement emphasizing his appreciation to all delegates for the profound and productive discussions and thanked them for the constructive outcomes of the meeting.

The delegations also conveyed their deep gratitude to the Government of Malaysia and D-8 Secretariat for the organization of the meeting. They also thanked the Chairman for his successful and practical leadership throughout the meeting.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

H.E. AMB. DATO' MOHAMMAD KAMAL YAN YAHAYA,
D-8 COMMISSIONER OF MALAYSIA

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning to everyone.

I now call to order, the 26th meeting of the D8 Commission.

2. Your Excellencies, my colleagues ~ Commissioners from all D8 member countries and their accompanying delegates. It is most unfortunate that our colleague from Bangladesh is unable to be present here today.

3. Your Excellency Dr Dipo Alam, Secretary General of D8 and all his officers and staff from the D8 Secretariat.

4. It is my singular privilege and honour to extend a warm welcome to all Commissioners and distinguished delegates to the 26th Session of D-8 Commission convened here in Istanbul.

5. I wish to avail of this opportunity to record, on behalf of member states, our appreciation to HE Dr Dipo Alam and his team for the excellent work and their demonstration of dedication to the work at the Secretariat and their constant reminder of our obligations to the Group.

6. Under normal circumstances, this meeting would have been held in Malaysia but upon consultation with the Secretary General it was decided that there is merit to have at least one meeting during a term of one's Chairmanship to convene the Commission meeting in Istanbul and I leave it to future chairs to consider this new approach. This is undertaken with the objective of establishing closer ties with the Secretariat and our hope

that we could foster better cooperation and coordination and to ensure that the D-8 would achieve its goals.

Colleagues, and
Distinguished delegates,

7. The 6th D-8 Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 8 July 2008 adopted the Roadmap of D-8 for Economic Cooperation in the Second Decade of Cooperation 2008-2018 which outlines the scope of D-8 activities within this period. It is therefore our duty to work out the implementation of a guideline for a vision and framework for enhancing cooperation, provide guidance and formulation for the implementation of D-8 programmes and projects, assisting in mobilising resources from governmental and non-governmental quarters and broaden the support for the D-8 general community including the private sectors and economic grouping cooperation initiative.

8. May I congratulate Indonesia for convening 2 sets of meetings namely i) the Working Group on Industry held on 10-11 November 2008 in Bali; and ii) the Working Group on Mine and Minerals held on 11-13 December 2009 in Bali. It was also noted that the Ministerial segment had to be deferred to another date in view of the inability of many of our Ministers to make themselves available for the meeting in Bali. These two meetings are the only 2 activities that were convened after the 25th D8 Commission and the 26th Commission.

9. It is our joint obligation to combine our efforts and ensure that our activities will run accordingly with the Road Map within the period of the 2nd decade of cooperation i.e. 2008-2018 and beyond. To boost our efforts, one of the expected outcome of this session is to formulate a list of implementable D-8 programmes and activities which will be charted into our calendar of activities for the years 2009, 2010 and beyond. It is my hope that with such schedule we would be able to prepare ourselves for the meeting in a more meaningful manner.

10. In August this year, the Secretariat announced to member states that its funds are fast depleting. In responding to this sad situation, Malaysia decided to pay in advance half of its 2009 obligation in order to provide the emergency funds to keep the Secretariat running.

11. I wish to remind ourselves that the Secretariat's budget and sustainability is entirely in our hands, now that we had agreed to establish the D8 Secretariat. We will later hear the Secretary General's report on this matter and I wish to urge all member countries to settle their outstanding annual contribution as well as the 2009 contributions to the Secretariat as early as possible.

Colleagues,
Distinguished delegates,

12. The global food crisis has gripped our attention and caused major alarm to the world. This issue was discussed at the Retreat Meeting of the Leaders in Kuala Lumpur and it was agreed that D8 embark to establish agricultural projects among member countries and partners and work our way out of the high dependency on foreign food supply.

13. Malaysia wish to focus its term of chairmanship to three major projects i.e. i) the production of quality and affordable fertilizers, ii) the production and supply of animal feed, and iii) the establishments of seed banks.

14. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Malaysia will host the D-8 Agriculture Ministers Meeting on Food Security which will be held on 25-27 February 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, insyaAllah. The expected outcome of the meeting is to enlist industry players, put them together and jumpstart these projects. Given the 2 months notice, I appeal to my dear colleagues to urgently inform and solicit the commitments of your ministers of agriculture to be present at this meeting. In my letter to all of you, you will find a brief information note on the meeting which will assist the necessary preparation to make the trip to

Malaysia. The official letter of invitations from the Malaysian Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry will be heading your way shortly.

Colleagues,
Distinguished delegates,

15. May I reiterate my hope that, in the next two days, we would find agreement on what needs to be done and how best these programmes are to be undertaken. I am confident that with everyone's support and enthusiasm, we will make headway in taking D8 to a higher plane of cooperation. I look forward to a frank and fruitful discussion on the Agenda items before us.

16. Lastly, I sincerely hope that the meeting arrangements made are satisfactory to enable all of us to have fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.

ANNEX III

AGENDA
26th SESSION OF D-8 COMMISSION
December 16-17, 2008
Hotel Ramada Plaza Istanbul/Turkey

1. Welcoming Remarks by the D-8 Commissioner of Malaysia.
2. Guest Speaker: Zuhail Mansfield/ Chairman of Turkish-Egyptian Business Council

Guest Speaker: A. Hanjani/ Secretary General of D-8 Federation of Chambers of Commerce
3. Adoption of the Draft Agenda.
4. Statement by the D-8 Secretary General
5. Consideration of Calendar of Events

a. Pending:

- A Meeting to initiate cooperation between D-8 scientific institutions, research institutes and universities in October 2008 in Nigeria;
- A Meeting on Migrant Workers and Remittances in November 2008 in Bangladesh;
- 1st D-8 International Tourism investment Forum November 9, 2008 in Iran. (Canceled)
- 4th Meeting of D-8 Working Group on Industry in November 10-11, 2008 in Indonesia; (Held)
- First Experts Group Meeting on Organic Agriculture December 2008 in Iran.
- International Conference of Tour Operators in 2008/09 in Iran.
- Meeting on Islamic Finance in 2008 in Malaysia;
- Experts Meeting on Automotive Industry in 2008 in Iran.

- D-8 Satellite Meeting on HIV/AIDS back to back with International Conference on AIDS in the Asia Pacific, in 2009 in Indonesia.
- 1st Ministerial and Working Group on Mining and Minerals in 2008 on December 11-13, in Bali/Indonesia.

b. Preparation of Calendar of Events up to the next session of Commission in the framework of the Roadmap

Egypt suggests:

- Establishment of a Center for Energy Studies in Cairo.
- Establishing an energy secretary for D8 countries in Egypt
- The Egyptian Authority for Insurance has suggested hosting a conference in Egypt on one of the following topics:
 - Micro – Insurance: to provide services to farmers and other limited income families.
 - Banking insurance and studying the D8 countries experience in this field

c. Consideration of projects proposed at the Retreat Meeting at the 6th Summit of D-8:

ToR of D-8 Agricultural Development and Food Security Program

6. Consideration and adoption of Base Year for tariff reductions under D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement
7. Consideration of D-8 Charter
8. Consideration of Establishing D-8 Business Council
9. Discussion on Financial situation of D-8 Secretariat in 2008.
10. Consideration and adoption of the Budget 2009 of D-8 Secretariat
11. Date and Venue of the 27th Session of the D-8 Commission and 12th Session of Council of Ministers;
12. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 26th Session of the D-8 Commission;
13. Any Other Business
14. Closing

ANNEX IV

Report of D-8 Secretary General at the 26th Session of the Commission Istanbul, Turkey, December 16-17, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Commissioners, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Welcome to the beautiful and historical city of Istanbul, the city of D-8 Headquarter.

May the Almighty God, Allah, bless all of you. In this good opportunity, although already past last week, I would like to greet you for Idul Adha, may Allah rewards our *qurban* this year and *ibadah* for us, our families, nations, and our beloved countries of more than 900 millions people in toto, amen.

I would like to whole-heartedly congratulate H.E. Ambassador Kamal Yan Yahya, the new Malaysian Commissioner as the Chairman of our Commission for the next two years; and H.E. Md. Zulfiqur Rahman the new Commissioner of Bangladesh. I am certain that with their track records, dedication and professionalism, D-8 stands to benefit the most.

Since this is the first time that Commissioners meet in Istanbul, please allow me to introduce my professional staffs of the Secretariat: Director Ambassador Kia Tabatabaee; Economist Mrs. Esen Gonen; Expert staff/Accountant Mrs. Yusra Cebeci; Technical staff/accountant Mr. Ilham Perintis; supporting staffs Mr. Mehmet Ersin and Kedir Karaca. We have the coordinator of our D-8 website Mr. Zuhendri Abdullah, who is now in Aceh, Indonesia. Although we are a small team, however, insya Allah with your supports and assistances, we would be able to serve and promote the objectives of our Organization better and better every year.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here to address the latest developments of our cooperation activities since our 25th Session of the Commissioner and the 6th Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, until now, Insya Allah.

Because of limited allocation of time, and further opportunity for me to explain under the relevant agenda items, I will refrain from going into details at this moment, but allow me to underline priorities needed to be expressed and noted at this juncture.

During the last five months, only two planned programs planned were implemented:

- (1) The 4th Working Group on Industrial Cooperation (WGIC) in Bali,

Indonesia, was held on 10-12 November 2008. I joined the meeting. To me this was a successful type of working group meeting where delegates of government officials; private sectors; and the exhibition activities resulted in concrete cooperation that need further implementation. I hope this model of event would be replicated to all of our working groups. This working group also established nine task forces, and has a Secretariat for monitoring, evaluating, and correspond the implementation of some cooperation among member states; as well as among the private sectors. The Ministry of Industry of Indonesia will lead the Secretariat of WGIC for two years through close cooperation with D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul. I hope next year in Tehran, Iran, this WGIC Secretariat and its task forces will report some progresses of their status to D-8 1st Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Cooperation and the 5th WGIC; and

- (2) The 1st D-8 Working Group on Mining and Minerals (WGMM) were held in Bali, Indonesia, on 11-13 December 2008. This was also a good example how this working group proposed their Terms of Reference on how they will develop their cooperation institution as modality to implement programs and projects among the member states, including the private sectors in a public-private partnerships. The Working Group also prepared an Actions Plan by considering our Roadmap 2008-2018. Next year the 2nd WGMM meeting will be in Tehran in 2009, back-to-back with the 1st Ministerial Meeting on Mining and Minerals, since in Bali, the meeting was postponed because only 4 Ministers confirmed.

Other activities that confirmed in the 25th Session of Commission are pending without notice to the Secretariat, as we report in the attached matrix, and kindly ask your attention for avoiding such cases in our 2009 programs. I would like to ask your kind consideration, that if some proposed programs cannot continuously be implemented on time, then we may offer it to other interested member states; or cancel the program.

During the last five months, the Secretariat had several activities, hopefully could lead to some potential cooperation programs in the future:

- 1 Secretary General was invited by **The Microcredit Summit Campaign and Gema PKM Indonesia** on 28-30 July 2008 in Bali, Indonesia. The conference attended by 900 delegates and opened by the President of Indonesia. This conference asked microfinance leaders (ML) and investors to respond to a series of questions on the global financial crisis and fluctuating food and fuel costs. After SG's presentation, few individuals and institutions who became interested to cooperate with D-8 on its programs were approached;
- 2 In Jakarta, Secretary General called on Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia reporting the 4th Working Group on Energy in Cairo; and ask for the Minster's support on the 1st D-8 Ministerial and Working

Group on Mining and Minerals in Indonesia;

- 3 Secretary General paid a courtesy visit to **UNIDO-ICHET** in Istanbul, Turkey, as a reciprocal response to previous visit to D-8 Secretariat by UNIDO-ICHET on 29 August 2008. Numerous issues were discussed during the meeting, such as potential cooperation in the future, technology development in hydrogen energy technologies, as well as further introduction on the both organization to both sides;
- 4 Secretary General was invited by **Indonesia Business Links (IBL)** on the Conference of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on 26-27 August 2008 at The Jakarta Convention Center in Jakarta. This conference strongly advocated business society to embrace responsible business as a good business practices among public and private sectors. Potential cooperation between D-8 and IBL on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was discussed and will be implemented in cooperation with some international organizations;
- 5 After attending the conference, Secretary General has called on a meeting with H.E. Minister of Industry of Indonesia and his staffs discussing about preparation of the 4th Working Group on Industrial Cooperation (WGIC);
- 6 In Jakarta, Secretary General called on Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries regarding a possibility Indonesia leads a Working Group on Marines and Fisheries, as parts of D-8 program on food security and tourism program;
- 7 Secretary General was invited by **International Youth Foundation (IYF)** in Istanbul on “2008 IYF Global Partner Meeting” on 20-22 September 2008. The meeting also attended by Managing Director of Indonesia Business Link; to discuss possibility of D-8 project on migrant workers, remittances, and microfinance. That will be implemented first in Indonesia and Pakistan.
- 8 Secretary General attended the informal **Commissioner Meeting (UNGA)** on 25th September 2008 in New York to discuss 2009 budget and preparation of the 26th Commissioner Meeting on the preparation of the 26 Commissioners Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, 16-17 December 2008;
- 9 Afterward, in Washington, D.C. Secretary General met with the researcher of International Youth Foundation (IYF) to prepare a technical project proposal on Migrant Worker’s Remittances and Entrepreneurs Training;
- 10 Secretary General was invited by APEC on the Conference “APEC Seminar on Securing Remittance and Cross Border Payment from Terrorist Use”, 22-23 October 2008, in Jakarta, Indonesia. In this seminar, Secretary General delivered presentation to encourage government and private sectors to facilitate migrant workers’ from informal to formal remittance.
- 11 Economist, upon invitation of Association of Improving Health Tourism of

Turkey, made a presentation at the **2nd International Health Tourism Symposium** held in Adana/Turkey on economies of D-8 countries and situation of health tourism in D-8. Symposium was also important for the possible active role of D-8 Organization in the 2nd International Health Tourism Congress to be held in Turkey at the end of February 2009.

- 12 Director and Economist attended the 20th Session of COMCEC and introduced D-8 to other organizations and countries.
- 13 In Jakarta, after attended the 4th WGIC in Bali, Secretary General had a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries to discuss the possibility of D-8 has a back-to-back 1st Ministerial Meeting and 1st WG on Marines and Fisheries Cooperation during the World Ocean Conference in Manado City, the North of Celebes Island of Indonesia. The ToR of the program is attached subject to be completed having the endorsement of D-8 Commissioner for Indonesia.
- 14 Report from Washington DC and By this opportunity, I would like bring your kind attention the importance for D-8 to have a Charter so as to codify all D-8 rules and regulations, strengthen its legal and institutional framework and promote it in international community. As most of the chapters of a Charter have already been adopted by D-8 Organs in different legal forms, it will mostly be a reaffirmation of current legislation in one legal arrangement which will serve as a firm foundation. As the Secretary General of D-8, I would like to ask your positive consent for the preparation of a draft Charter until the next Commissioners meeting.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

If you see some progress and cooperation opportunities within D-8 countries and current global challenges ahead, it is rather very hard for the Secretariat to be your effective partner to successfully coordinate and manage all D-8 activities and expectations as programmed in our Roadmap 2008-2018. Therefore in this great opportunity I need your supports to consider the completion and the smooth implementation of *the Statutory Document of the Secretariat*, primarily your supports on the Secretariat 2009 budget.

I have started my address by congratulating Malaysia's Chairmanship for the next two years, the Secretariat believes that together with all Commissioners, and with Malaysian experiences in international trade and tourism, D-8 will make advancement in our trades and other economic cooperation. In this opportunity, I would like also to express my high appreciation and thank you to the Indonesian Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for their continuous 2008 budget supports until the end of this year, which allow me to have travel working visits; and expect good results for the benefits of D-8.

Excellencies,

Before I conclude my report, I would like to draw your attention to our 2009

programs by considering the following remarks:

- 1 All proposed programs are expected to refer to the objectives of D-8 Roadmap 2008-2018, so we could achieve what are expected in the Roadmap. I hope one of us, I hope Malaysia as D-8 Chairman for two years, could lead the preparation of D-8 Action Plan of our Roadmap to be achieved. This will be a guide on how member states propose programs. The Secretariat proposed a Matrix of the programs (please see the Matrix in our Website) that I expect by our next 27th Commissioners Meeting and Council Minister Meetings in Kuala Lumpur in 2009, all of us could fill the programs, including by the Business Forum/Chamber of Commerce and Business Council;
- 2 D-8 also need to focus to implement the cooperation on establishing real cooperation projects such as in fertilizer, animal feed, seed bank, pesticide, and D-8 Food Security Fund to support D-8 food security programs as mandated in the KL Summit last July 2008. I call your kind supports to make a success important meeting in KL, Malaysia, in our 1st D-8 Ministerial Meeting and Working Group on Food Security Programs, February 2009;
- 3 During this global financial crisis, at least we could again to have D-8 Governors Central Bank Meeting, as once in 2006 was implemented in Indonesia. Again, I propose Governor Tan Sri Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz of the Bank Negara Malaysia may be could initiate and lead this D-8 meeting since she is also the Chairperson of the Bank International Settlement (BIS). The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and experiences, as well as our concerns, how D-8 countries overcome the global financial crisis;
- 4 Beside D-8 programs and activities there will be more engagement of private sectors; it is also a good time now for D-8 to pay attention on the potency of Corporate Social Responsibility programs of companies; not only limited to big companies, as well as the CSR of small and medium enterprises;
- 5 We expect at least each member state to propose two programs every year that are related to the achievement our Roadmap 2008-2018 in various sectors; and last but not least,
- 6 The implementation of our Rules of Origin and the Preferential Agreement should start in 2009 without delay. Therefore I need your support for the ratification of our three Agreements: PTA; Visa; and Custom Agreements. By this opportunity, I would like to emphasize the importance to agree on Base Year issue. Although looks technical, if we can't agree on an exact date, we would not be able to prepare Offer Lists timely and because of this enforcement of PTA could be delayed. Therefore, I would like to ask your active support for this issue.
- 7 Secretariat prepared and submitted its Budget 2009 to your attention in line with the decision taken at the last session of Commission. During preparation, we considered exchange rates; living conditions in Istanbul, where-ever possible, UN tables for living expenses in different capitals, assumed workload and constant

expenses of Secretariat as to the reference of Budget.

- 8 D-8 Secretariat is proposing to establish a D-8 Business Council in 2009. In order to inform Commissioners about the idea of Business Council and its possible modality, Secretariat has invited guest speakers, who can explain you the idea and its possible modality. The purpose of Business Council is promoting business relations between D-8 countries, establishing a strong network among D-8 private sector and facilitating B2B type of business environment which have been given to us as a mission by the Summit. Now, Secretariat is asking Commissioners to allow us work on its possible modality until the next Commissioners meeting. We need more cooperation with the private sectors institutions within our countries, in order to achieve our goal and objectives as stated in the Summit and the Roadmap 2008-2018.

Thank you for your attention.

Wassalamualaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

ANNEX V

This annex will be provided only to the Member States upon request.