

**GOODWILL MESSAGE DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF THE NIGERIAN MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY(NIMASA), MR.
ZIAKEDE PATRICK AKPOBOLOKEMI AT THE OPENING
SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE D-8 2ND EXPERT
WORKING GROUP (EWG) MEETING ON SHIPPING, 17TH –
18TH OCTOBER, 2011 ABUJA, NIGERIA**

PROTOCOLS OBSERVED

I am greatly honoured to welcome you to Nigeria and this auspicious event of the meeting of the Second Expert Working Group on shipping of the D8 (Group of Developing Nations) in Abuja Nigeria. As a regional leader in shipping and a responsible member of the International Maritime Organization with a category 'c' Council seat, Nigeria is fully committed to the promotion of international shipping and the realization of the full maritime potential of all D8 members through positive collaboration and leveraging of the unique strengths of individual States.

About a year ago, on the 9th to the 10th November 2010 to be precise, Nigeria successfully hosted the 1st Meeting of D-8 Working Group on

Shipping, which was organized with the support of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) in Abuja. In organizing the meeting, the D 8 hoped to achieve two critical objectives; the first of which was to fast track collaborative engagements between member States to meet the target of raising the Group's share of global trade from 15-20% by 2018.

The second objective of the First Expert Working Group Meeting was to facilitate the realization of the theme of the 7th Summit of D 8 Heads of States and Governments held in July 2010 with the theme "Enhancing Investment Cooperation Amongst Member States." Consequently, the trend of discourse at the various sessions of the meeting was geared towards achieving these objectives. To this end, the meeting concluded by agreeing on a set of resolutions and plan of action for building the required synergy for achieving both medium and long terms targets of the Group.

WE ARE THEREFORE GREATLY HONOURED TO HAVE YOU BACK IN ABUJA TODAY FOR THE 2ND EXPERT WORKING GROUP MEETING WHERE WE SHALL REVIEW THE SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 1ST EXPERT WORKING GROUP MEETING. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS MEETING, NEW PROJECTS AND TIMELINES WILL BE AGREED DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF OUR DELIBERATIONS AND THE REVIEW OF THE STATUS QUO.

I URGE YOU ALL TO TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THIS EVENT TO ENGAGE IN HIGHLY INTERACTIVE AND CREATIVE DELIBERATIONS WITH OUR EYES FIRMLY SET ON THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF MOVING OUR NATIONS FROM THE POSITION OF DEVELOPING TO DEVELOPED STATES IN SHORTEST ATTAINABLE INTERVAL.

ONCE AGAIN I WELCOME YOU ALL TO NIGERIA AND WISH YOU A MOST SUCCESSFUL DELIBERATION.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, ON THE 9TH TO THE 19TH NOVEMBER 2010 TO BE PRECISE, NIGERIA SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED THE 1ST MEETING OF D-8 WORKING GROUP ON

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR AKIN FAYOMI,
UNDER-SECRETARY FOR REGIONS AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON BEHALF OF THE
NIGERIA D-8 COMMISSIONER ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2ND D-8
EXPERT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON SHIPPING**

ABUJA, 17 – 18 OCTOBER 2011

PROTOCOL

I have the privilege and honour to address this august gathering on the occasion of the 2nd D-8 Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting on Shipping holding in Abuja, Nigeria from today through tomorrow. It is gratifying to note the enthusiastic demonstration of commitments by the member countries of the D-8 in attending this 2nd EWG meeting just as was witnessed during the 1st EWG meeting that took place in November, 2010.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. You are well aware that today's development environment is confronted by enormous challenges that call for urgent ingenious collective action. The

financial and economic crisis that engulfed the whole world in the fall of 2008 is defying solutions. Debt and exchange crises are deepening with consequences of social tension from America to Europe. The non-resumption of the WTO negotiations have continued to negatively impact development prospects of international trade, with developing countries more seriously affected. These have combined with the menace of maritime crimes, including piracy on the high seas, to justify the imperative for strengthened collaboration and cooperation.

3. The D-8 platform offers a unique opportunity to give expression to this imperative. Thus, aggregating strategies on shipping and other maritime activities will provide the cornerstone to effectively promote trade and therefore stimulate economic development and growth.

4. This meeting, therefore, intends, among other things, to review the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 1st EWG meeting; strengthen intra D-8 shipping activities; identify new priority areas; and facilitate public private sector partnership. It will also offer the needed opportunity to promote maritime research and development as well as capacity-building programmes within the purview of the D-8.

5. Achieving these goals in the next 2 days is a pretty mean task. However, I am optimistic that participants are willing and ready to surpass the rather discouraging luster that accompanied the outcome of the first meeting.

6. I do recall that at the 1st Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting on Shipping, we resolved, among other things, to establish Sub-working Groups in investment, technological, and commercial issues for the maritime industry. One year after, there has

hardly been any sufficient follow-up action either as a group or at bilateral levels between D-8 member-countries.

7. For instance, the interests expressed by Nigeria for partnership, especially in the areas of Maritime Joint Venture (MJV), Train the Trainers and Researchers (TOTAR) programme, and the establishment of Automated Maritime Data Access (AMDA), have not been keyed into by any D-8 member countries.

8. Similarly, we have faced difficulty in tabling maritime issues at the Joint Commission processes between Nigeria on one hand, and a number of other D-8 member countries on the other hand. These have not really complemented our goals in the maritime sector. I, therefore, suggest that we use this opportunity to set the ball rolling for the efforts of maritime experts to begin to yield dividend.

9. We must also all work together to ensure that there is significant intra-trade in the D-8 Group as a necessary corollary for a vibrant shipping sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. It is obvious that one of the gaps in the implementation of decisions is the lack of active participation by the D-8 private sector. I, therefore, urge the private sector participants at this meeting to brace up to the challenge, to network and develop partnership frameworks. This will, in turn, challenge government authorities to translate such frameworks into MoUs and bilateral agreements that will underpin the essence of a thriving maritime sector within and among D-8 Member countries.

11. I wish you all very fruitful deliberations.

12. Thank you for your kind attention and God bless.

Opening Remarks

by

**Ambassador Bagher Asadi
(Director, D-8 Secretariat)**

on behalf of

Secretary-General Widi Pratikto

at the

2nd D-8 Working Group Meeting on Shipping

17 October 2011, Abuja – Nigeria

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, in particular Dr. Pratikto who due to other engagements could not be with us here, I would like to welcome you all to the 2nd Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Shipping.

First, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Nigerian Government, especially to the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), for the Meeting, providing us with a very comfortable venue in the beautiful city of Abuja. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria for the valuable assistance towards organizing the meeting and to all delegates here whose active participation contributes to the success of our Meeting. Let me add that my remarks are focused and rather brief. No need to delve into statements of a general nature on, let's say, the important role shipping plays in the

economies of the D-8 community (surely more for some than for others) or the imperative of expansion of cooperation in the field to reach certain targets in the future. Firstly, I consider such descriptive statements to be obvious to all of us and a matter of concurrence within the entire community, and secondly, out of consideration for the brevity of time available to the meeting. I prefer to go right to the heart of the matter at hand.

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to the Nigerian Government's keen interest in this area of our common activities under Transportation, as one of the five main priority areas of the work of the Organization, we are gathering here for the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Shipping. The first meeting last year established the overall framework, gave the Member Countries the opportunity to introduce their shipping sector to the rest of the Organization, engage in the exchange of experiences and best practices in the field of shipping, and also to agree on a number of important recommendations for further work. As I am informed, there has been some progress in the implementation of the first meeting's decisions, particularly in the establishment of the maritime transportation consultation group and website – whose successful operation calls for serious cooperation of the relevant organs and institutions of the Member Countries.

Looking at the programme of work of this Meeting, I am reminded that we have quite a number of important issues to address, inter alia,

- 1) Strengthening intra-D-8 shipping activities and exploring cooperation opportunities among the Member Countries, through identification of concrete areas and opportunities for cooperation in the field of shipping, including in particular through enhancing logistics services;
- 2) Encouraging public-private partnership;
- 3) Enhancing cooperation in research and development activities in the field; and

4) Actual implementation of capacity-building programmes for human resource development.

Let me just add that in addressing the above issues – substantial as they are – we have to be realistic and objective in our approach, particularly with respect to the challenges ahead of us in promoting cooperation in this field, as in other fields, bilaterally as well as collectively. As aptly indicated in the brief by the host country, we might need to “re-strategize implementation processes.” Moreover, as experience tells us, in this sector as in other areas of our work, we need to articulate specific projects and set timeline for execution, bearing in mind, needless to say, the strength and potential of Member Countries along with the particular challenges that apply to each and every country.

I would also like to underline the particular importance of two more aspects in our work here; one, to promote networking among stakeholders in ports, shipyards, education, training, research and regulatory subsectors – which should start, first and foremost, at the national level (I am glad to see the banner right behind the podium emphasizes this very aspect as a theme of the Meeting); and two, the public-private cooperation. I am sure everybody agrees with me that this aspect has not been given due emphasis in the past. The private sector in the Member Countries enjoys the requisite potential to play its constructive role in promoting the level of actual cooperation – again, more in some countries than in others. But, in any event, the meaningful realization of such cooperation depends on the will and determination of the private sector and equally so on the conducive environment to be created, facilitated, supported, and sustained by the public sector.

In our collective efforts towards achieving the above objectives in the course of the coming years, I believe it is incumbent upon us here to work in earnest to design an appropriate structure for the Expert Working Group on Shipping, including with regard to the articulation of its functions and responsibilities.

Distinguished Delegates,

In concluding my remarks, I would like to emphasize, once more, the imperative of realism and objectivity in our approach and discussions on how to take a concrete step forward in our collective endeavor in the field of Shipping Industry, as clearly underlined in the 2008-2018 Roadmap. And finally, I wish all of you success here in Abuja, and thank you for your attention and indulgence. We in the Secretariat, look forward to fruitful, focused discussions and a solid outcome – which, I might add, in all honesty, does not need to be huge, comprehensive, spanning a wide range of issues, and containing numerous recommendations and proposals; rather instead a limited set of do-ables – and if I may be allowed to underline, “*a limited set of do-ables*” -- which we can celebrate their successful implementation in our third meeting next year.

Thank you very much, **Mr. Chairman**