

REMARKS

**H.E DATO' DR. HASRUL SANI MUJTABAR
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MALAYSIA**

**2nd MEETING OF THE D-8 TRADE MINISTERS' COUNCIL
17 FEBRUARY 2016**

Honourable Khurram Dastgir Khan
Federal Minister for Commerce, Government of Pakistan.

H.E Syed Ali Mohammad Mousavi
D-8 Secretary General

Honourable Ministers and Representatives of the D-8 Nations

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning,

I would like to express at the outset, our heartfelt gratitude to the Government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their warm hospitality in hosting this auspicious 2nd Meeting of D-8 Trade Ministers' Council. Pakistan as the Host has done an excellent job to pursue our shared goals and to achieve tangible outcome together.

2. I also wish to convey the warm greetings from the Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, Honourable Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed. Following the ASEAN-US Summit in California, the Minister was not able to attend. However, it does not mean that Malaysia is today giving lesser importance to the D-8.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. We all are aware that the D-8 countries have about 1 billion people, covering approximately 17% of the world's population. We are rich with resources and have immense potential which could create prosperity to its members. However, Malaysia strongly believes that the D-8 would only gain credibility, if we can show to the world and to our people, the much awaited results.

4. In 2015, Malaysia, nevertheless, recorded an increase of 5.4% in total trade with the D8 countries. Malaysia views that once the implementation of D-8 PTA begins, it will play a

significant role to increase the intra-trade volume. Malaysia has done its part. We have gazetted Malaysia's D-8 PTA Offer List on 5 December 2013 and was approved by the Parliament. Malaysia is ready to implement the PTA at any date when all others are ready.

5. Alhamdulillah, Malaysia is extremely happy with the outcome of these Ministerial and Supervisory Committee Meetings, with the exception of some minor issues. After a long stalemate, we have finally shown our unity, strength and character that D-8, can provide tangible results if the member countries are serious. The decision of having a cut-off date to implement the D-8 PTA from 1st July 2016 was a major breakthrough. This would definitely help us to achieve our target much easier i.e to have intra-trade of US 500 billion by the end of the year 2018.

6. Needless to say, that it also represents a great symbol of success of cooperation among the Islamic ummah and within the context of South-South Cooperation which Malaysia strongly believes in. We have enough of the negative and unfair publicity on Islam across the globe and the need to move forward expeditiously.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Malaysia would once again like to thank the Host Government and its team for successfully hosting today's Meeting. Malaysia's gratitude also goes to the Secretary General of the D-8 for his leadership. In line with our firm commitment to see the D-8 to move forward, Malaysia, in principle, has agreed to the proposal made by the Secretary General to host the next 3rd Trade Ministers Council Meeting and the 5th Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur in 2017. The venue and specific dates would be conveyed to the Secretariat soon upon consultation with the relevant Agencies in Malaysia.

Thank you.