

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

### **The Fourth Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement**

**16 February 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Monoj Kumar Roy  
Head of Delegation  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Respectable Madam Chair  
Hon'ble Secretary General  
Distinguished Head of Delegation from Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalam-u-alaikum, also I wish you a very Good Morning.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be with all of you, at the opening of this significant gathering. First, let me extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for providing us with this wonderful venue in the capital city of Islamabad and their warm hospitality. My thanks are also for the D-8 Secretariat for their sincere efforts for preparation of the meeting. I would also like to express my appreciation to all delegates for their presence in this Meeting.

#### ***Distinguished Delegates***

Bangladesh is the founder member of D-8 since 1997. We have actively participated in all D8 related meetings. It is an excellent forum among the countries from Asia, Europe and Africa. There is common religionism and culture being shared by us. Trade is also an important element of this relation. Bangladesh has very good trade relation with D-8member countries. More than 8 percent of its import are from and more than 3 percent of its export are to the member countries of D8. Our total trade volume is more than 6 percent with you, the friendly countries. However, the balance of payment is highly inclined towards you. It is our expectation that being fully integrated with you in the near future we will be able to reduce this gap.

#### ***Distinguished Delegates***

Within this context, let me now turn to the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). As you would remember, the Agreement officially entered into force being signed by 4 member countries on 25

August 2011. Still Bangladesh could not ratify the agreement due to the non inclusion of 30% value addition criteria for LDC countries in the Rules of origin.

May I cite that the Article 3.1(b) of D-8 PTA which recognizes the needs of the Least Developed Contracting Members. Now we want meaningful implementation of this objective.

Though Bangladesh is ready with her offer list on transposed HS Code 2012 format we cannot move forward due to the unsettled issue of local value content for the LDCs including Bangladesh in the Rules of Origin (RoO). I am sure all of you will consider and concur of our just demand in line with the WTO principles. We raised our voice for a long time in this regard. However, once again we will try to put forward our case in detail at a later stage of this session under specific agenda for consideration.

**Madam Chair,**

I strongly believe that this Supervisory Committee meeting will provide an inclusive decision-making platform for effective implementation of the D8 PTA.

I wish every success of the Supervisory Committee meeting.

Thank you again Madam Chair, Thank you ladies and gentlemen, thank you all.