

Report of the Meeting of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers United Nations General Assembly

25 September 2014, New York, USA

The meeting of D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers was held on 25 September 2014 at the UN Headquarters on the sideline of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, USA under the chairmanship of the Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on National Security & Foreign Affairs as the current Chair. Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and Nigeria, high level delegations of Egypt, Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia and Minister of Economy of Turkey attended the meeting. The full list of participants is attached in **Annex I**.

After opening of the meeting by the Chair and adoption of agenda, the Secretary-General made his statement which is attached in **Annex II**. Then, the Chair made his opening statement. Later, Heads of delegation attending the meeting made their statements.

After deliberations, the meeting reviewed and discussed the latest and most important developments held within the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) and mainly focused on three issues as per the agenda of the meeting appended in **Annex III**.

On future external relations subsequent to the Observer Status in the UNGA, the Council appreciated the work of the Secretariat on establishing and intensifying external relations with international and regional organizations. The meeting agreed that the D-8 Organization should actively approach several UN bodies and affiliated institutions such as, the UNCTAD, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNDP, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO, WTO and other prominent bodies for cooperative arrangements, particularly with the objective of project facilitation in D-8 priority areas. They also agreed to develop a mechanism for periodic consultation with the UN and requested the Secretary-General to work on these. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat would work on maximizing the external relations and the outcome from them.

On the EPG process, the Council expressed satisfaction at the successful completion of the EPG process and appreciated the work of the Group for their comprehensive report. The meeting thanked the Government of Turkey for its generous financial support to host the meetings in Turkey.

After detailed discussion, the Council took note of the views made by the Secretary-General and decided in principle on the preparation of the outcome document in the form of an 'Action plan' on the basis of the EPG report for adoption in the upcoming 9th Summit.

On the 9th D-8 Summit scheduled in December 2014 in Turkey, the meeting took note of the theme that was discussed in the 35th Commission in Islamabad and the documents the Secretariat would prepare. It opined that Turkey as the host would finalize the theme for the meeting and requested the Turkish delegation to confirm the theme to the Secretariat at the earliest convenience in order to facilitate the Summit related works. The meeting underscored the need for an early confirmation of the 'date' and 'venue' in order to ensure maximum participation at the highest level. The Minister of Economy of Turkey informed that the date and venue for the 9th Summit would be conveyed to the Secretariat within the next 02 (two) weeks.

The meeting decided that a Special Commission meeting would be held well ahead of the 9th Summit to review the preparation of documents for the 9th Summit. It agreed that the Commission in its special session would work out, among others, on the concrete outcome for the Summit.

On the last agenda item (any other business), the meeting underscored the need for an early implementation of the PTA and emphasized that the upcoming Trade Ministers Council would be the best forum to discuss the way toward faster implementation of the trade agreement. It also emphasized the need for establishment of the D-8 Customs Data Bank.

In his concluding remarks, the Chair thanked all the delegations for their time and contributions. All the delegations thanked and appreciated the efforts of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN for making all the arrangements to hold the meeting in the UN premises.

List of Participants

Sl.	Country	Name and Position
1	Bangladesh	H.E. Mr. Shahriar Alam Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN
2	Egypt	H.E. Ambassador Hisham Badr Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs
3	Indonesia	H.E. Mr. Hasan Kleib Director-General for Multilateral Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4	Iran	H.E. Ambassador Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour Adviser to the Foreign Minister
5	Malaysia	H.E. Ambassasdor Zainal Abidin Bakar Undersecretary, OIC, D-8 and South-South Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6	Nigeria	H.E. Dr. Nuruddeen Muhammad Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. Ambassador Ibukun A. Olatidoeye Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the D-8
7	Pakistan	H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz Adviser to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry Foreign Secretary
8	Turkey	H.E. Nihat Zeybekci Minister of Economy
9	D-8 Secretariat	H.E. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi Secretary-General Mr. Kazi Ziaul Hasan Director (Economy, Implementation and External Relations)

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United Nations General Assembly
25 September 2014 - New York, USA**

Statement by the Secretary-General

**Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman,
Hon'ble Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation,**

Please allow me to thank you for your kind presence to grace the meeting of D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers first ever in the sideline of the United Nations General Assembly today here at the UN Headquarters in New York despite your extremely busy schedule. We all know you have multifarious engagements apart from the UNGA session and we deeply appreciate your consideration for laying importance to your own Organization.

At the very outset, I would like to once again congratulate the newly appointed Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the D-8 Member States. I am confident that you would guide us toward consolidation of fraternal and cooperative relations among our Member States, and to a higher level of collective endeavor for achieving our common goals.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

D-8 was established with a great reservoir of political will and the great leaders envisaged strong partnership among the Member States in furthering growth & development as well as common position in international organizations, including the OIC and others in the region. Our leaders have strong sense of ownership to the Organization and I have been asked many a time to explore our individual potential and the mechanism to develop together through effective partnership. To cater to this, I need your strong support and guidance: support in, among others, hosting meetings and events as much as possible in sectoral cooperation areas and guidance on our effective strategic discourse during the critical juncture of policy coordination and project implementation.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

Since its establishment in 1997, the D-8 successfully formulated the Charter, the Global Vision, the Roadmap and several other legal documents. The D-8 Visa Agreement, Customs Agreement and Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) were forward steps to concretize actual cooperation, particularly in trade sector. The Organization has also been able to conclude MoU on Civil Aviation in order to consolidate cooperation in Transport sector.

So far, we have achieved significant developments to intensify cooperation. Since inception, the Organization has been able to steadily enhance intra-trade to around US\$ 133 billion or 7.4 percent of the total trade with the world in 2013 and we are confident that with

strong partnership, we'll be able to reach the target set by the D-8 Kuala Lumpur Roadmap to achieve the D-8 intra-trade volume to a minimum of US \$500 billion by the end of 2018. At this critical juncture, we need your guidance to decide on the functional methodologies.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

As the incumbent Secretary-General, I felt the strong need to enhance cooperation between the governments and the private sectors in order to reach the target set by our leaders. I have tried to motivate the D-8 Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 FCCI) to be more active for enhancement of D-8 intra-trade. In order to foster growth and ensure active participation of the private sector in D-8 countries, I solicit your actions and advice, particularly on encouraging the Chambers of Commerce & Industries of your countries and on establishing D-8 Business Council as envisaged by the EPG in order to institutionalize and consolidate private sector cooperation.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

We are at the final stage of receiving Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Once the status is granted to the D-8, the Organization will gain more visibility within the periphery of international community. Pursuant to the obtainment of observer status, the D-8 may actively approach several UN bodies and affiliated institutions such as, the UNCTAD, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNDP, FAO, UNEP, UNIDO, WTO and other prominent bodies for cooperative arrangements, particularly with the objective of project facilitation in D-8 priority areas. Also, a mechanism for periodic consultation with the UN may be developed in order to ensure maximum benefit from this global organization.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

As you may have already seen, our today's agenda will mostly revolve around the outcome of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) process and the preparation for the upcoming 9th Summit of our Organization. Besides these, a discussion on the future external relations with the UN and its different specialized bodies may take place.

The Council decided to commence the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) process in its last meeting in 2013 in Islamabad. Accordingly, with the voluntary contribution of the Government of Turkey on holding the meetings in Istanbul, we have successfully finished the EPG process in two sessions, one in May and the other in September this year. The EPG meetings were attended by all the selected Eminent Persons from 08 (eight) Member States.

The meetings in two phases were vibrant and lively. The EPG finalized a comprehensive report containing set of recommendations for more effectiveness and vibrancy of the Organization. They were sincere and worked hard to compile their insights and experiences into implementable actions for the benefit of the Organization. They, however, acknowledged that the

report is not exhaustive and there are many other avenues that must be taken care of in order to transform this Organization an important player in the international scene.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

The report is comprehensive and has a long-term projection. It refers to, inter alia, the need for Member States to be serious and adhere to their commitment in furthering development cooperation in different areas of cooperation, priority areas in particular, limited physical and institutional infrastructure and resources such as budget, staffing etc., absence of institutional framework or incentive to involve private sector into the D-8 affairs, non-adherence to the legal instruments already concluded, need for own financing mechanism to further sectoral cooperation, inaction of Working Groups and Task Forces and lack of a comprehensive action plan. The Group came up with a set of actions based on the fundamental premise of constructive and cordial engagement by the Member States of the D-8 Organization.

Now, I present the detailed EPG report before the Council for your kind review and suggestions as well as future course of actions.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

Now, please allow me to shed some light on the most important event of the Organization, the Summit. As you may be aware, the 9th Summit will be held in December 2014 in Turkey.

The D-8 Organization will complete the first phase of its life-cycle by the 9th Summit in 2014 in Turkey. The second phase of the Organization will be a turning point to take our common agenda forward in a manner commensurate with the requirements for developments and the pace of change taking place within individual member states and the Organization as a whole. At this juncture, my strong notion is that the Organization shift from its current state of a 'Policy coordinating body' to a mix of 'Policy coordination & Project implementation'. Pursuant to the Charter, the Roadmap of 2008-2018 and the Global Vision, we must devise our strategic approach so that our shift from policy formulation to implementation of projects becomes faster, visible and contributory to the economic and social value chain.

With the 9th Summit, Turkey for the second time, will resume the Chair of the Organization. The time ahead of us is critically important considering the shift in approach of the Organization. Therefore, we are looking forward to the guidance and directives of our great leaders to consolidate our efforts for realization of the Vision and the Roadmap.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,**

In this context, in the last Commission session in Islamabad, some topics on the "Theme" for the Summit were discussed and actively considered. Preliminarily, the Commission selected

“Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development’ as the Summit theme. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey is to finalize the theme and communicate to the Secretariat for onward transmission to the Member States. Also, the host country, i.e. Turkey, needs to finalize the date and venue for the Summit in order to ensure maximum participation at the Heads of State/Government level. The Secretariat is also in the process of preparing a set of documents including a booklet containing information, facts and figures on D-8 Organization and a special edition of D-8 Organization’s journal containing the last two years’ events and achievements. The Government of Turkey will make necessary arrangements for sideline events during the Summit with the TPO, Central Bank, News Agencies etc.

In this opportunity, I would solicit your guidance on any documents that may be prepared and adopted in the Summit. Also, outcome of the EPG process may also be incorporated in the Summit documents. I am looking forward to your guidance and directives in these regard.

**Mr. Chairman,
Hon’ble Foreign Ministers,**

I once again thank you for your kind presence in this meeting. We need your political, moral and active support in order for us to take our common agenda forward for the uplift of our own lives. I am eagerly looking forward to your guidance and suggestions on the above and any other issues that may concern us. I remain at your disposal at all times.

I thank you for your kind audience.

**Sideline Meeting of the D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers
United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
1500-1800 hrs., 25 September 2014
UN Headquarters, New York, USA**

AGENDA and PROGRAMME of WORK

Thursday 25 September 2014

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| 15:00 | Opening of the Meeting by the current Chair: Pakistan |
| 15:05 | Adoption of the Agenda |
| 15:10 | Opening Statement by the Secretary-General |
| 15:20 | Remarks by the Chair |
| 15:30 | Statement by the Ministers |
| 16:30 | Future External Relations subsequent to the Observer Status in the UNGA |
| 16:55 | Presentation of the Report of EPG process and subsequent discussion |
| 17:25 | Discussion on the preparation of the 9 th D-8 Summit- Outcome document
and others |
| 17:50 | Any other business |
| 18:00 | Closing |