

D-8 Istanbul Plan of Action

Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation

Introduction

The Leaders of the D-8 Member States gathered on 20 October 2017 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey at the 9th D-8 Summit celebrating the 20th anniversary and reaffirmed their commitment to the goals and objectives of the Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation. They underscored the need for a comprehensive and transformative approach toward the realization of goals and objectives of the organization as set out in its Charter.

The Leaders reviewed progress so far made within the D-8 framework and expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperative engagement. They agreed that in the rapidly changing world with dynamic political and economic landscape, the D-8 should spearhead in areas of common interest as already identified in earlier Summits. They noted that each Member State has its own sets of opportunities which can be utilized for common good of all through cooperative efforts. They also noted that utilizing opportunities through cooperation would help Member States attain economic resilience which would ensure sustainability and stability in the stages of economic development and, eradicate poverty in a comprehensive manner. The theme ‘Expanding Opportunities Through Cooperation’ would, therefore, be in harmony with the global 2030 Development Agenda with Sustainable Development as one of the core elements for people-centered development and therefore, would complement the efforts being made in international fora for poverty eradication and people’s development.

The D-8 Istanbul Plan of Action is built on the need for operationalization of D-8 instruments in priority areas of cooperation.

The Action Plan includes the following:

1. Ratification of the Charter and implementation of D-8 instruments

The Charter was adopted in the 8th D-8 Summit held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2012. All the Member States are encouraged to ratify it as early as possible.

The Council of Foreign Ministers will periodically review the vision and stage of implementation of goals in line with the Charter, the Global Vision and the Roadmap.

2. Increasing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Working Groups and Sectorial Meetings

Considering that the Working Groups are the driving forces of our Organization, the Member States are encouraged to strengthen their commitments and contributions to the activities of the D-8 Working Groups.

Emphasizing the importance of reviewing and streamlining the works of Working Groups in order to achieve the objectives in six priority areas, reports of the Working Groups will be regularly received by the Secretariat every six months and subsequently reviewed by the Commission.

Program of work of Working Groups and sectorial meetings will be focused, well-prepared and result-oriented in order to achieve concrete deliverables. Member States are encouraged to ensure the participation of their specialists/experts from their relevant Ministries/authorities. The Secretary-General shall present proposals at the earliest on how to revitalize the Working Groups.

By taking into account the findings and outcomes of the meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences and other activities, a “D-8 Decennial Roadmap for Economic Cooperation (2020-2030) shall be drafted by the Secretariat for consideration, and subsequent adoption at the 10th Summit.

3. Trade Facilitation Measures

The D-8 Trade Ministers' Council (TMC) will lead discussion on possible expansion of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and taking fully into account the D-8 Charter. They will review the offer list in order to explore possibility of inclusion of more items in the list. The Supervisory Committee (SC) on Trade will identify and develop mechanism for expansion of PTA as soon as possible and solution for unsettled issues regarding the D-8 PTA. The SC will finalize its outcome before the 10th D-8 Summit. The SC may form separate Task Forces (TF) to reach agreement on separate areas such as barriers to trade, trade-in-services, intellectual property rights etc. The SC will consider bilateral free trade arrangements between the D-8 Member States, if any. The SC will submit its final works to the TMC. The SC will welcome bilateral trade arrangements between the Member States and work towards D-8 FTA following full implementation of D-8 PTA.

The D-8 Ministers of Finance/Economy/Customs will initiate discussion to seek points of convergence of the Customs Act. They may form appropriate inter-governmental bodies to work on convergence of customs acts and procedures in Member States. They will consider establishment of Customs Data Bank as per the D-8 Customs Agreement. The works on Customs Agreement should be accomplished as soon as possible.

4. Strengthening Energy cooperation

The Working Group on Energy will be made more functional; the WG will explore the potential of sharing energy efficient technology and explore benefits out of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). WG may establish a D-8 Energy Database to serve as a platform for exchange of experiences on efficient use of energy and its new types. The Member States will make efforts to increase the share of renewable energy in their energy mix, and enhance joint research and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in consistence with the international commitments of the Member States.

5. Tourism Cooperation

D-8 will work towards developing a comprehensive tourism strategy by December 2018 with the aim of its adoption at the 10th D-8 Summit. One point of focus of the tourism strategy will be the areas of tourism including but not limited to connectivity, tourism facilitation and joint marketing projects, cultural, religious, historical, health/medical, entertainment and eco-tourism.

6. Agriculture Cooperation

Agricultural cooperation should be revitalized. Technical cooperation on Agriculture and more focus on Agricultural know-how capacity building by undertaking projects and programmes to be worked out by the Agriculture Ministers. Emphasis will also be made on Science, Innovation and Technology in agricultural cooperation.

7. Industry Cooperation

Concrete projects in areas of technology transfer in consistence with the international commitments of the Member States, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, agriculture, textiles, maritime, blue economy-based industry and other sub-sectors will be undertaken in order to share expertise, know-how and technical capabilities for mutual benefits. The member states will work on various interventions and incentives including tax holidays and preferential treatment for joint manufacturing industrial activities among countries in D-8.

8. Transportation Cooperation

Focus will be made on strategic partnership for sharing of knowledge and information, expertise and technical know-how as well as developing projects based on the best experiences of the Member States. On air connectivity, DGCA platform will explore the possibility of cooperation in this area.; regarding shipping connectivity, cooperation on supply chain management and convergence and simplification of customs procedures and documentation for the facilitation of transportation of goods in transit will be worked out while tourism related

connectivity to enhance greater people to people contacts may also be emphasized; transfer of technology in the construction of railways and motorways etc. will also be explored, in consistence with international agreements and commitments of the Member States to which they are Parties to.

9. Establishment of D-8 Research and Development Center

The establishment of the D-8 Research and Development Center will assist to conduct research on D-8 priority areas and other issues as determined by the Member States. The D-8 Research and Development Center will be an associated body of the D-8 Secretariat, and subject to the D-8 secretariat regulation. Interested Member States are invited to make proposals on the modality of hosting and operating the Centre.

10.D-8 Project Support Fund

D-8 Project Support Fund will be established mainly to conduct activities and studies for implementation of projects/programmes among the D-8 Member States and to conduct pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for the implementation of projects/programmes which can bring benefits to the D-8 Member States equitably and to explore opportunity and new markets for the private sector of D-8 Members. The Fund at the beginning will operate within the existing budgetary framework of the D-8 Secretariat and at a later stage, other financing options will be explored. The Fund will be governed as per the Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared by the Commission and decided by the Council of Foreign Ministers.

11. D-8 Financial Transaction Facilitation

In order to establish an intra D-8 international payment mechanism, D-8 Member States will initiate discussion among D-8 authorities on the issues of banking and non-banking flows including the possibility of setting up a D-8 Clearing House.

12. Increased Involvement of Private Sector

Member States believe that private sector is an important stakeholder in economic development through active participation in economic and commercial activities. The Leaders vow to facilitate necessary measures so that private sectors in D-8 Member States are encouraged to significantly engage in commercial and economic activities, including private investment, movement of capital and participation in projects to be undertaken by the Member States.

Operationalization of D-8 Visa Agreement will facilitate trade by increasing the mobility of the businessmen. The Visa Agreement will be implemented as soon as possible. The D-8 FCCI will institutionalize and consolidate private sector cooperation. It will be an effective interface between the governments and private sectors.

Leaders encourage the D-8 FCCI to organize a Summit of D-8 Business Leaders for better understanding of trade and for strong and effective networking.

13. Coordination in other international for a

Member States will continue to coordinate on common agenda in international organizations to advance the goals and objectives of the D-8 under the current Chair.

14. Strengthening of the D-8 Secretariat

Strong Secretariat is a pre-requisite for productive and efficient outcome. Capacity of the D-8 Secretariat will be strengthened. The Council and the Commission will attempt to ensure that the Secretariat has required number of staff and adequate budget as well as appropriate premises to meet operational requirements.

The D-8 Istanbul Plan of Action will be reviewed in the next Summit.

Turkey, 20 October 2017