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**REMARKS  
BY H.E. RETNO L.P. MARSUDI  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT  
THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
ISTANBUL, 19 OCTOBER 2017**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey,**

**Excellencies Foreign Ministers of D-8 States,**

**Excellency Secretary-General of D-8,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

***Assalamu'alaikum Warrahmatulahi Wabarakatuh,***

Firstly, let me express my appreciation to Turkey, for its hospitality and excellent arrangements of this meeting.

I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on Turkey's assumption of the Chairmanship of the D-8.

Let me also commend Pakistan, for its Chairmanship in guiding our Organization for the past five years.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Our eight developing countries comprise over 1.1 billion people or 15 per cent of the world's population.

Our combined GDP is over 3.7 trillion US dollar, and **our countries combined total trade** in 2015 reached **1.5 trillion US dollar**.

However, D-8 intra trade reached only **100 billion US dollar** or only **6,6% of our total trade** in 2015.

Figures after figures of our economic cooperation **remain uninspiring**.

In short, D-8 cooperation **remains far from its potential and opportunities available**.

This situation, combined with the current global economic uncertainty, has **increased development and economic challenges** of D-8 economies.

For the D-8 to remain a relevant and viable economic platform, we must ensure that our organization can generate **tangible results**... contribute to the prosperity of its people.

We have to transform D-8 into a **stronger organization**.

We need to **rejuvenate our commitments** to the spirit and mandate of our charter.

In this context, we welcome the theme of ***"Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation"***.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to share some views on how we can enhance the D-8 to become a stronger organization working for the people of D-8 countries.

**First, we must ensure our economic cooperation can be felt and bring prosperity to all the people of D-8 countries.**

This is important. In most D-8 countries, there are still wide gaps between the rich and poor.

In many cases, extreme poverty and economic disadvantage have also proven to be the root causes of organized crimes, including radicalism and terrorism.

In this regard, our areas of cooperation must be able tangibly reduce the gaps between the rich and poor.

This includes intensifying cooperation in areas such as agriculture, SMEs, infrastructure and connectivity, as well as maritime.

**Second, we need greater participation of the private sector including SMEs in undertaking D-8 cooperation.**

Government and business synergies can increase the multiplier effect of economic and development benefits to the people.

Indonesia believes that strong partnership with the business community, including through public private partnership, can promote real change.

It will also reduce cost and increase efficiency in the implementation of development policies.

Moreover, a strong partnership with the private will enhance economic empowerment and strengthen the capacity of the private sector particularly SMEs.

**Third, in accordance with this year's theme, we need to expand our opportunities through South-South Cooperation as well.**

To fully explore and be benefited from our collective economic effort, we need to **strengthen partnership for development** to close or minimize the development gap among ourselves.

To this end, South-South Cooperation undoubtedly holds a **key role**.

Evidently, South-South Cooperation has increasingly demonstrated its contribution in **fostering the Global South' self-reliance** by enhancing their creative capacity to find solutions to various development problems.

I am confident that by exploiting the potential and benefit of South-South Cooperation, we would be able to strengthening our own national capacities.

I thank you.

*Wassalaam'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*

**Word count: 591 (5 minutes)**



**STATEMENT BY  
YB DATO' SRI ANIFAH AMAN  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA  
AT THE  
17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

**19 OCTOBER 2017**

**His Excellency Mevlut Cavusoglu (*Mev Lut Chavushoolu*)  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey**

**Honourable Ministers**

**His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi,  
Secretary General of D-8**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to you, Mr Chairman and the Government of Turkey for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my delegation during our stay in this beautiful city.

2. Malaysia welcomes Turkey as the incoming Chair of D-8. I would like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of our full support and cooperation. We look forward to working closely with you in further strengthening the Organisation.

3. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Pakistan, the outgoing Chair for its successful stewardship of D-8 since assuming the Chairmanship in 2012.

4. Allow me this opportunity to also thank His Excellency Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi for his dedication and stewardship of the D-8 Secretariat for the past five years. Based on the principle of rotation, Malaysia will assume the post of Secretary General of D-8 on 1 January 2018 for the next four years. In this connection, it is with great pleasure that I introduce Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari as the incoming Secretary General of D-8.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. Since its establishment in June 1997, the D-8 has made steady progress in facilitating cooperation under the D-8 framework. The instruments that we have put in place such as the Visa Agreement in 2010, the Customs Agreement in 2011, and the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), which was operationalized on 1 July 2016, are manifestations of our cooperation.

6. However, despite these tangible outcomes, I believe we need to revisit and renew our political commitment to the Organization. The Secretary General, in his report to the 38<sup>th</sup> D-8 Commission had highlighted that only 2 percent of meetings were held in 2017. He also drew attention to the declining number of D-8 events and initiatives from Member States.

7. As we mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our establishment, we need to do more – we need to recommit, bolster and deepen our cooperation in order to fulfil the objectives and realise the goals as enshrined in the D-8 Charter. We need to strengthen our resilience in confronting the multi-faceted challenges in a rapidly changing world.



8. In this context, the theme of this Summit - "Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation" is indeed pertinent. Only through cooperation among us, can we then leverage on the opportunities that come with these cooperative partnerships, Making good of these opportunities will contribute to our quest for economic growth and resilience.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. We are very much aware that trade plays a significant role in promoting economic growth and progress. In its D-8 Economic Outlook 2016/2017, the OIC Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre (SESRTC) recorded that intra-trade among D-8 countries was USD 100 billion for the period 2013-2015. While this has fallen short of the target set in 2008 for intra trade to reach USD 500 billion or 15-20 per cent of total global trade by 2018, I believe there are potential and prospects for increasing intra-trade. We must address the causes of the decline in intra trade.

10. With a market of over 1 billion people among us, opportunities abound. Mutually beneficial tariff concessions, the removal of non-tariff barriers that impact negatively on trade, and customs cooperation, will contribute to the intensification of trade. We must also harmonise regulations that will facilitate the flow of goods to our markets.

11. As our leaders gather tomorrow for the Summit, they will be considering two outcome documents namely; the Istanbul Declaration and the D-8 Istanbul Plan of Action. They will serve as a guide for D-8

to intensify economic cooperation and provide the basis for reaffirming our commitment to the Organisation.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Allow me to highlight an issue that affects the Rohingyas in Rakhine State who had suffered immensely due to injustice. How can we address the dire socio-economic situation faced by the Rohingyas?

13. One of the immediate ways is for the Myanmar Government to allow unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to reach those in need. We call upon D-8 member states to assist the Rohingyas in whatever way possible to alleviate their dismal socio-economic situation. In this regard, Malaysia commends Bangladesh for sheltering the Rohingya refugees.

14. The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State had released its Final Report which, among others, identified the economic and social development aspects of the crisis. We believe that the implementation of the recommendations in the Report would improve their socio-economic situation. However, socio-economic development is only possible if there is political stability as they are inextricably linked, the latter being a prerequisite for socio-economic development.

15. Before I conclude, allow me to once again reaffirm Malaysia's commitment to the objectives of D-8. As we move ahead, we must continue to explore the potential and opportunities that the D-8 economic cooperation framework provides. I believe that, together, we can collaboratively accomplish the D-8 objectives.

Thank You



**Interventions by Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
Bangladesh Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP in the 17<sup>th</sup> D-8 Council of  
Ministers meeting prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit, 19 October 2017,  
Istanbul, Turkey**

***Your Excellency Mr. Mevlut Casasoglu Chairman of the D-8 Council,  
Your Excellencies the Foreign Ministers/Heads of Delegation to the  
Council,  
Mr. Secretary General, Ladies and gentlemen,***

**Assalamu Alaikum and a very Good Morning**

I extend my warmest felicitations to you **Mr. Chair**, on assumption of the leadership of D-8 Council. Our heartiest thanks go to your government for warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I extend our sincere thanks to the government of Pakistan for their chairmanship of the Organisation during nearly past five years and efforts to strengthen D-8 cooperation. We appreciate the outgoing Secretary General for his valuable efforts and services rendered to D-8 and welcome the Secretary General- Designate.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The founding leaders of D-8 including the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina established the Organisation from an idea-idea that despite being geographically dispersed and distant from each other, eight populous Muslim countries of the South could effectively pursue meaningful economic cooperation from one platform and take it to a position of influence in the global economy.

D-8 in its 20 years journey has essentially remained at the level of policy discussions. Now, it is time for action and programme oriented approach in order to bring visible outcome and tangible benefits for the D-8 citizenry. We must give substance to D-8 cooperation in all priority areas.

Today, **Mr. Chairman**, we are rightly talking about new phase of action, new plan of action, and new road map for D-8. And I am confident that this new phase will start with the Turkish leadership. For that, it is critically important to address the question of '*how*' with those of '*what*', '*by whom*' and '*when*'. We may start with something small or even one. But, we should implement it with the best possible success so that it has multiplier effects leading to bolder and more ambitious projects expanding D-8 cooperation.

Mode, means, actors and stakeholders of our joint D-8 action along with delivery plan are thus critically important along with the fundamental questions of technology, know-how and capacity building. For mode, we need to remain open to actor based individual venture or country based bilateral, joint and collective projects at all levels such as private, public or PPP under various innovative arrangements. Two things are particularly needed in this context: models and examples of cooperation and identification of some deliverables which could then be studied at expert and stakeholders level. We have different models around: cluster industry model; comparative advantage based model of one country one industry; model of sponsoring SME initiatives; model of supporting commercial incubation of innovations to open new economic avenues.

Regarding means, there is no alternative to creating a D-8 development fund or project support fund along with cooperation arrangements with multilateral and international banking or financing institutions.



For actors and stakeholders, Bangladesh prefers private sector and innovative SMEs. Governments, through D-8 institutional process and mechanisms, should encourage and involve private sector heavily in D-8 economic cooperation providing them with incentives and preferential treatment. D-8's future lies in private sector driven projects and programmes. For that D-8 must expedite PTA and FTA among member states in an inclusive approach. Here, I urge upon all of you to support Bangladesh's bid for joining PTA as an LDC with special and differential treatment of 30% local value addition criterion.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have no choice but to be R&D and technology focused. The new D-8 Secretary General needs to do his best in bringing, introducing and applying new technology and assisting capacity building through D-8's external relations. D-8's advantage is, it doesn't have politics for deliberation but only economic positives to build on.

Let me thank the Secretary General and his team and the Commissioners for their hard work in finalising the outcome documents. I convey Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's good wishes for D-8, which, as a co-founder, she holds close to her heart.

And before I conclude, may I request for your continued and unwavering support in the OIC, UN, and other relevant forums for the rights and repatriation of the forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals under existential threat. This is a planned ethnic cleansing. I make an appeal to the international community for humanitarian assistance for them and support for a lasting solution of the problem

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**



**Statement**

**By**

**H.E. M. Sarmadi**

**Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**Islamic Republic of IRAN**

**17th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers**

**Istanbul, 19 October 2017**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Honorable Chairman,**

**Honorable Ministers,**

**Distinguished Heads of Delegations,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to participate in the 17th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers. I am particularly grateful to the people and Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the meeting and warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation as of our arrival to the beautiful city of Istanbul.

Allow me also to thank the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the commendable stewardship and direction it has shown in conducting the activities of the D-8 during the past 5 years. While congratulating the Republic of Turkey for assuming the chairmanship, we assure our Turkish colleagues of our full support and cooperation in their efforts to accomplish our common goals.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Since the D-8 inception, the world has changed dramatically. We are now facing so many new challenges; while at the same time we are presented with new opportunities as well. The serious threat of terrorism and extremism, to the extent no country feels safe and secured anymore, figure high among the new challenges that we face. In the past several years, extremist elements and groupings, inspired by a pervert and inhuman ideology, have never hesitated to kill innocent people, wreak havoc through terrorizing communities and displacing people in unprecedented scale. As from the beginning, all peoples of the region, including my people and government, were resolute in resisting this new wave of inhumanity, and we all stayed resolutely through to our decision and mission to defeat the monster and support our fellow regional countries, especially Syria and Iraq to preserve their national sovereignty and territorial integrity. While we should



celebrate the beginning of the end of extremism, especially Daesh, we should not be complacent as it is reverting back to its terrorist roots and is still potent to perish innocent lives.

At the same time, we are appalled by the loss of human lives in Yemen and disappointed that the bombing of mostly civilian areas and targets continue, thus aggravating war consequences, including diseases, famine, human displacement and destruction. The calamity befalling the Rohingya community in Myanmar is another heart-wrenching development that is unfolding before our eyes; something that we should not be indifferent towards.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We need to be vigilant about a potentially dangerous trend in international relations that encourages reckless unilateralism. The biased attitude against multilateralism, which is currently at work, could, if unchecked, endanger international stability and have adverse consequences for developing nations.

As a true believer in multilateralism and diplomacy, the Islamic Republic of Iran has constructed a living model of successful diplomacy by negotiating the JCPOA (i.e., Iran Nuclear Deal) with a group of countries, which resulted in settling an unnecessary crisis over Iran's peaceful nuclear program. The JCPOA demonstrated once again the functionality of diplomacy in resolving disputes among nations. It has opened a new path before all States, in particular in developing countries, to embark on with a view to recuperating their rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its commitments in full under the deal and continues to do so as long as it is honored by other participants. Nonetheless, it is critically important that all UN member States recognize the significance of the JCPOA as a working pattern for civilized negotiations in a civilized way and a living model for efficacy of multilateralism.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the 20th anniversary of the organization, we should critically evaluate our performance by focusing on our achievements and failures. While we have managed to set a framework of cooperation, certain agreements and documents have been finalized in different areas. However, the shortcomings and modest progress in some certain areas should be addressed.

Trade Cooperation by operationalizing of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) from 1 July 2016 is a very welcome development. We believe it should be complemented by our strong commitment in other important areas of cooperation such as trade facilitation mechanisms insurance covering removal of non-tariff barriers, bank facilities, insurance supports, and easier custom procedures to promote intra-trade among the D-8 Member States.

**Honorable Ministers,**

We, as member states of D-8, have reached various agreements and conclusions so far. However, D-8 requires more consolidated political will and courage in implementing and materializing the goals and objectives.

In order for our organization to further develop, more active participation in different D-8 meetings, events and workshops is a requirement.

Another important issue in the D-8 is the meaningful participation of private sectors in economic and business activities of the organization.

The private sector should play the central role in advancing innovation, creating wealth, income and jobs, mobilizing domestic resources; activities that can help us achieve the goal of poverty reduction.



Given the significant role of the education, capacity building and human resource development in economic development, I.R. of Iran successfully initiated the establishment of the D-8 University in Hamadan Province, situated in the western part of the country, which is considered as an entity affiliated to the D-8 Secretariat.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of our Organization. It is a great moment for us as the new phase of the Summit begins.

Six priority areas stipulated in the D-8 plan of action are the core value of the organization. As a way forward we are in the belief that the works done on every priority area should be reviewed and streamlined by the Committee designated to be set up.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I pray and hope that the D-8, in its second life span, evolves into a vibrant, effective and visionary forum of practical cooperation among its member states.

Allow me, at the end, to express my appreciation to the outgoing Secretary General, Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, for his dedication in fulfilling the lofty goals of the D-8 and

Welcome Mr. Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari from Malaysia as the incoming Secretary General. I wish him success in his mission and hope that during his tenure significant steps could be taken towards the realization of the goals and objectives of the organization.

Thank you for your kind attention



**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
H. E. GEOFFREY ONYEAMA,  
AT THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE D-8 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,  
ISTANBUL, TURKEY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,  
Your Excellency Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me from the onset express our deep and profound appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting this event and for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to our delegation since our arrival.

2. Our appreciation and thanks also goes to the Government of Pakistan as the former Chair of the D-8 for steadying the ship of the D-8 so well in the last 5 years.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies

3. Today's meeting, convened under the theme '**Expanding Opportunities through Cooperation**' should be complemented with concrete plans that are mutually beneficial and aimed at enhancing trade and other economic activities among Member States. In this regard, Trade cooperation is an imperative that can greatly contribute to the economic development of our countries. It is our belief that enhanced trade relations will improve and strengthen the D-8 economies. To this end, we need to further develop sustainable trade exchanges in order to benefit from the investment opportunities available in member countries.

4. At present, inter-trade among members are at the lowest and we need to take strong and practical measures to deepen, widen and increase inter-trade relations among our countries.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

5. Tourism is a potential contributor to economic growth and sustainable development. It would therefore, be imperative for Member States to avail themselves of the opportunities that abound in this lucrative sector in order to advance our economies. In light of this, it is pertinent for us to identify tourism as an area of priority.

6. In today's world, a vibrant and dynamic private sector is the driving force for economic growth. However, our economic developments depend heavily on Government-Private Sector synergy, in order for the Private Sector to thrive, hence Governments need to create conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

7. In Nigeria, we have commenced efforts to provide enabling environments for investors in priority sectors of the economy such as Agriculture, Solid Minerals, ICT, and Tourism amongst others as well as to support the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMSEs). Our country put in place an investment policy on **Ease of Doing Business** for the development and sustenance of an efficient and dynamic Private sector in Nigeria.

8. As we have been informed, Nigeria will be hosting the D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry in Abuja from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. It is expected that our Minister in charge of Trade and Industry will attend as the forum seeks to come up with a plan of action on how to deepen trade relations within the D-8.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies

9. We have challenges but in spite of these challenges, we need to make D8 work. We need to intensify our efforts in giving due priority to our areas of cooperation particularly energy, agriculture and trade. We need to strengthen the Secretariat to ensure that it becomes more effective and proactive in the discharge of its mandate. As we mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organization, Nigeria has no doubt that we will more



than ever before renew our commitment to the D8 to ensure that we achieve the mandate and objectives of the organization.

10. With this, Mr. Chairman, let me thank you and your country once again for your kind hospitality.

11. I thank you all for your attention.