

**Islamabad Joint Declaration**  
**Of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation**  
**21 December 2020**

We, the Rectors/Chancellors/Vice Chancellors and Heads of delegation of the D-8 NPRI Universities, Research Institutions and Private Sector Representatives from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey met virtually on 21 December 2020 for the Inaugural meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation.

***Taking into account*** the importance of sharing and exchanging information and the need to promote sustainable development through scientific research and technological innovation with the aim of achieving the goals and objective of the D-8 Organization;

***Cognizant*** of the need to solidify our resolve on collaboration in joint Research and Innovation in order to increase the level of economic productivity and development in D-8 Member States;

***Considering*** the fact that collaboration and joint efforts are vital among research institutions as well as cooperation between research institutions and the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industries (D-8 CCI) in order to translate the research outcomes into finished products;

***Mindful*** of the need for the transformation of the production processes of the D-8 Member States through technology transfer and exchanges;

***Emphasizing*** the need for unlocking the potential of the D-8 youth and utilizing human presence eliminating technologies such as artificial intelligence, fifth generation wireless technology (5-G) and Industry 4.0;

***Identifying*** the need for better cooperation through adoption, utilization, expansion and transfer of technologies among D-8 Member States on mutually agreed terms;

***Desirous*** of increasing the number and quality of research undertakings as well as scaling up the conduct of research and innovation and promoting industrial development of the D-8 Member States;

***Underlining*** the need to strengthen dialogue and facilitate sharing of experiences amongst the D-8 Member States and between the Member States and global institutions such as the IsDB

as well as the private sector on concrete actions that are needed to support sustainable industrialization;

With this regard to the above, we agreed upon the following:

1. The establishment of D-8 Research and Development Council in order to promote collaboration and establishment of Joint Ventures (JVs) among the Research Institutions of the Member States in research and development projects in the relevant research areas. We call on the National Governments of the D-8 Member States, relevant authorities and institutions to take advantage of this institution and embark on joint research and development programmes and develop policies that promote partnerships and collective benefits and trade opportunities as well as ensure food security for our citizens.
2. Formation of the D-8 Universities Association in order to enhance communication and coordination among the Member States Universities and Research Institutes.
3. Election of COMSATS University Islamabad as the Chair of the D-8 NPRI initiative for a two-year term. The Chairmanship of the D-8 NPRI shall rotate after every two years based on alphabetical order.
4. Strengthening the linkage among universities, research institutions, industry-related organizations and training institutions in order to develop collaborative research relationships.
5. Supporting the exchange of information on effective methods of promoting sustainable development through science and technology with the aim of achieving the objectives of this Declaration.
6. Encouraging dialogue among all affiliated bodies of the D-8 Organization, including D-8 CCI, ISC, D-8 TTEN, D-8 NPRI and D-8 HSP on promoting/sharing science and technology and innovation and the necessity for a broad collaborative effort, including with non-member States/economies.
7. Providing support to the industries and SMEs of the D-8 Member States by providing research results and innovative technologies to overcome the challenges and problems that they are facing presently.

8. Carrying out Scientific studies and sharing resources in a variety of ways, including establishing research and development centres and joint laboratories, creating cooperation platforms, implementing joint research projects, organizing exchange visits and embarking on joint post-graduate programmes. In short, the expertise in D-8 Member State in research and innovation will be utilized in order to facilitate technical exchanges and develop human resources that will excel in building indigenous technologies.
9. Encouraging the governments and stakeholders in the D-8 Member States to promote the D-8 NPRI and its activities.
10. Preparing an action-plan that will help monitor the activities and projects under D-8 NPRI in order to ensure timely implementation of decisions. In this regard, the role of establishing focal person group is imperative in order to follow up and ensure effective implementation of all decisions taken.
11. Exploring opportunities for partnerships between and among the D-8, IsDB, and other International Organizations/ relevant United Nations agencies and other potential partners in order to support inclusive and sustainable development in research and innovations.
12. The Heads of Delegations expressed their words of appreciation to the Rector of COMSATS University, Islamabad, **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal**, for steering the deliberations of the Meeting and registered their immense gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the excellent arrangement of the meeting. The Meeting also appreciated the D-8 Secretariat for its valuable support rendered to the event.
13. The Meeting welcomed the offer by **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal**, Islamabad Pakistan, who stated that *COMSATS University Islamabad* is willing to graciously host the 2<sup>nd</sup> D-8 NPRI Meeting, tentatively in 2021 in Islamabad.