

**Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General**  
**His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari**  
**at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Technology Investment Meeting 2021 (TIM 2021) in Iran**

**Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentleman,**

Good Morning / Afternoon to All.

I would like to begin by conveying my immense gratitude and appreciation to the staff of Pardis Technology Park and officers of D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) Secretariat in the Islamic Republic of Iran and officials of the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul for graciously organizing this important event.

I also would like to express my belief that this event will be an effective platform for information and experience sharing among representatives of the D-8 Member States, investors and other participants from different locations around the world.

**Distinguished Delegates,**  
**Ladies and Gentleman,**

We are living in the age of digital revolution and the rapid pace of technological evolution which is technologically the most advanced period and there is no end to this advancement in the technological developments. The fourth industrial revolution and emerging technologies such as the internet of things, artificial

intelligence, robotics and additive manufacturing are spurring the development of new production techniques and business models that will fundamentally transform production and distribution.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

I would like to bring to your attention to a very important subject which is the preparedness of the developing world for the future of production or industrial revolution 4.0. It is imperative to have a glimpse of the comprehensive report published by the World Economic Forum titled “Readiness for the Future of Production Assessment 2018” which gives analytical hypothesis on the preparations of the world for the new industrial revolution, which manifests itself through emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence, robotics and additive manufacturing.

As it can be easily observed and followed by everyone, least developed, developing and developed countries make many investments in the name of science, technology and innovation areas within their capacities and allocate huge resources and conduct various studies in order to get ahead of other countries in development level and contribute to the sustainable economic growth and development of their countries.

*According to Tim Berners-Lee, who is inventor of the World Wide Web (WWW),  
“The Web as I envisaged it, we have not seen it yet. The future is still so much bigger than the past.”*

I believe that these developments in technology and innovation have no end and these developments will continue to play the most important role in the economic development trajectories of countries. However, the investment budgets allocated for science and technology for all countries to contribute to their economic development and growth will continue to grow even more.

Therefore, we need to recognize the crucial importance of science and technology in the activities of the Organization as the main source of future economic growth of our Member States. Inevitably, we cannot achieve sustainable economic growth and development without integrating the new and emerging technologies into our system.

It is in this light that the D-8 Organization has started to prove itself in the fields of science, technology and innovation with the breakthroughs it has made in recent years and has carried out studies to ensure sustainable economic growth and development of its Member States.

In this regard, D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) was one of these initiatives commenced with the support of the Member States to provide information and experience sharing and technology transfer among themselves. It was established in order to fulfill Technology market functions, pursue such missions as capacity building and information dissemination on technological capabilities, investments, achievements, and needs of the D-8 Member Countries and organize technology collaboration and create coordination and synergy among Member States.

Therefore, D-8 TTEN would provide support to the Member States in order to transform their production systems by promoting exchanges of technologies and know-how as well as investment. Subsequently, D-8 Governments, together with industry, academia and civil society can take sound and appropriate policy measures to close the potential gaps related to their readiness for the future of production.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

Furthermore, I would like to inform this meeting that recently, we have established the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) in order to carry out more researches and studies in science, technology and innovation fields and undertake more result-oriented projects and initiatives for the benefit of the D-8 Member States.

The reason behind its establishment is to bring the D-8 Member States' universities, researchers, government and semi-government research institutions, industrial research institutes, trade bodies, technological development and promotional organizations and international funds providers under one umbrella.

D-8 NPRI would consist of Universities and Research Institutes of Member States, D-8 Technology and Transfer Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN), D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), D-8 Research and Development Council, D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme Office (D-8 HSP), the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), Islamic World Citation Center (ISC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).

Through these networks of D-8 TTEN and D-8 NPRI, D-8 Organization will expand the level of technology and innovation of the D-8 Member States in order to bring about the economic growth that is essential for the sustainable development of the D-8 Member States, identify research and development capabilities and exchange the research results with industries in Member States, transfer of information and experience in technology among the relevant bodies of the D-8 Countries, bring together private and government institutions of technology and innovation of D-8 Member States for joint projects and initiatives, extend laboratory facilities to the Member States researchers, conduct joint research projects on industrial areas and institute research fellow exchange programmes among universities in D-8 Member States and the D-8 International University.

**Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

There is no gainsaying that without heuristic technology, research and innovation activities, we cannot achieve sustainable economic development that we envisage and we will be unable to compete with the developed world. As you are well aware, industrial revolution 4.0 is an uphill climb and indeed a race to the top. We, as developing countries, cannot afford to lose any more of our precious time. Hence, we should act fast. In this regard, I would like to give a clear message to the D-8 Member States that collaboration has a crucial importance for developing countries in technology and innovation activities. Therefore, we must come together to build our own technologies and share ideas among ourselves for our functional survival and meaningful participation in the global value chains.

All countries are at different levels of development and possess different competitive elements. Therefore, we should complement each other and promote collaboration among the D-8 Member States. In line with the need for capacity building and technological collaboration, we at the D-8 Secretariat introduced several new initiatives as we believe strongly that without building our own infrastructure and technological base, we will remain behind.

I thank you for your kind attention.