

**Statement by the Hon'ble Minister of State,
Ministry of Youth and Sports as the Chair of D-8 Youth
During the '10th D-8 Summit' (virtually),
08 April 2021, 1500-1700 hrs.**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chair of 10th D-8 Summit, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum and A Very Good Day to you all.

It is my utmost honor and pleasure to be present here, in this auspicious moment at the '10th D-8 Summit'. First of all, I like to recall with profound respect, the Greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I extend my humble respect to the martyrs of the great Liberation War which ultimately led to the independence of Bangladesh.

I also express my deep gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mother of Humanity and Role model of Development Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, for being the beacon of hope in the same trajectory that Bangabandhu dreamt of in realizing his 'Sonar Bangla', meaning a 'Prosperous Bangladesh'. Through her able leadership, Bangladesh is graduating from the LDC status to Developing Country. It is through her visionary policy directives that Bangladesh is harnessing the power of its youth, targeted towards full utilization of our demographic dividend, for attaining our ultimate development goal of 'Vision 2041'.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I also like to mention that we the Bangladeshi are celebrating the Birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman together with Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh. In these grand occasions, we are organizing the OIC Youth Capital-2020

International Programme. All these programmes are sources of inspiration for the youth of Bangladesh as well as world.

Excellencies,

While the world is undergoing the devastating effects of a global pandemic, the spirit of unity holds the key to future existence and sustenance. In this line, there couldn't be any better time to hold this Summit to fortify cooperation among the D-8 Member States.

Distinguished delegates,

Bangladesh has the honor to have successfully held the first ever 'D-8 Youth Summit 2021' on 5th April 2021 with the theme 'Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Transformation' with participation of 171 youth delegates from all D-8 member states. After long discussion, the leaders of six groups delivered their thoughts. The insightful and vivid thoughts and dreams of our D-8 youths have made us hopeful for a future, where with the new world order, we will be able to move forward both economically and intellectually. In the youth summit, the speakers emphasized on the entrepreneurship transformation along with easy access to financial assistance. They hope that after this summit the youth of member countries will get a room in economic development, positive social change, sustainable environment, youth empowerment and tech innovation for the nations. I think This Youth Summit has laid the foundation of future D-8 Youth Summits and we hope to continue to bring our Youth power on the same platform of togetherness.

Excellencies,

The discussions and outcome of this Summit will help our youth to accomplish their dream and Bangladesh as the Chair of the D-8 will be in the forefront to meet the challenges. I thank you all

for your kind and patient hearing. I express my earnest gratitude to the Chair Hon'ble Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina for giving me the floor.

Joy Bangla

Joy Bangabandhu

Long live the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation