

**10TH SUMMIT ADDRESS OF DEVELOPING EIGHT COUNTRIES (D-8)  
(8 APRIL 2021, DURATION: 10 MINUTES)**

BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM

Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency SHEIKH HASINA,

Esteemed Heads of State and Government,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Secretary General,

Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations,

I salute you all with affection, my sincere feelings and respect.

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAHI WA BARAKATUH.

Through you, I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt greetings and respects to my brothers and sisters all around the world.

I am wholeheartedly happy to come together with you on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Summit Meeting of our Developing Eight Countries Organization even if we cannot be together physically.

I wish the mercy of Allah upon the deceased President Prof. Necmettin Erbakan who pioneered the establishment of D-8.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the politicians and statesmen who have contributed to the current D-8.

I wish from Allah that our summit would be beneficial for our countries, our region and all humanity.

With this Summit meeting, we turn over the Chairmanship, which we have undertaken for almost four years, to friendly and brotherly Bangladesh.

I wish success to esteemed Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina.

On this occasion, I would like to congratulate friendly and brotherly Bangladesh on its 50th anniversary of independence.

Our Organization, which we have hosted its secretariat in Istanbul and is represented on three continents, has proceeded on its way by getting stronger in the quarter century since its establishment.

While establishing our Organization, we grounded on the prevailing of "peace instead of war", "dialogue instead of conflict", "justice and development instead of double standards".

We adopted the motto of "equality instead of superiority", "sharing instead of exploitation", "human rights, freedom and democracy instead of oppression and domination".

As a structure that works towards a fairer, more prosperous and more stable world, we have accomplished important works in the period we left behind.

However, we also know that we have a long way to go ahead of us.

We will inshallah continue to work in cooperation for the establishment of a world full of peace, tranquillity and well-being.

My distinguished brothers and sisters,

For the past year, we have been facing a global challenge due to the coronavirus pandemic.

This pandemic, claiming the lives of approximately 3 million people in 192 countries so far, has revealed many distortions around the world.

It was witnessed in a very painful way during the pandemic that mere material wealth was not sufficient to ensure social justice and welfare.

In the fight against the pandemic, we have drawn attention to the importance and necessity of international cooperation since the first day.

While providing the most advanced health services to our citizens, we have never left friendly and brotherly countries to their fate.

With the medical aid we sent to 157 countries and 12 international organizations, we clearly demonstrated our solidarity in this difficult period.

As a member of the G20, we supported the initiation and extension of the "Debt Service Suspension Initiative" for the poorest countries to prevent the pandemic from turning into a global debt crisis.

We contributed to the works initiated for this purpose on platforms such as IMF and the World Bank.

We have clearly stated on every platform that the vaccine issue, which is our greatest strength against the virus, should not be sacrificed for interests and greed for profit.

As Turkey, we will present our domestic vaccine, having already conducting experiments on human, for the benefit of all humanity abiding by the principle of "no one is left behind" following the completion of processes.

I wish Allah's mercy upon all our sisters and brothers who lost their lives due to Covid-19, convey my condolences to their relatives and wish a speedy recovery to our patients.

We ask Allah to save us and all humanity from this calamity as soon as possible.

Dear brothers and sisters;

During our Chairmanship, we have strived to strengthen our organization and further develop our regional cooperation in line with the priorities we announced before.

Today we gathered for the theme of "Partnership for Transformative World: Harnessing the Power of Youth and Technology", which is incisively determined by our Bangladeshi brothers and sisters.

D-8 population of more than 1.1 billion, most of whom comprising young people, is our most valuable wealth.

The way to get strong and effective is through having well-educated young people.

In this context, we support the UN Youth Strategy of 2030 by Mr. GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

We continue our efforts to lead the goals set within this strategy.

When UN Youth Centre project, which we wish to host in İstanbul, is finalized, this centre will constitute a new platform where precious young people from our organisation will come together.

High technology and innovation are key elements in order to stand out in the competitive economic structure today.

We have to focus on high-tech, high-value-added production so as to achieve strong and sustainable growth rates.

In this context, we welcome the initiative for "D-8 Network of Research and Innovation Pioneers", which involves the most prestigious universities in our countries.

This network enables the exchange of information between our universities and research institutions in innovative fields such as renewable energy, artificial intelligence, robotics, internet of things, big data, blockchain and nano technology and it is of critical importance for our countries to reach their rightful place.

It is possible to realize our potential for cooperation in many areas, from trade to investment, from rural development to agriculture, from tourism to energy and transportation, from health to defense.

Of course, the increase in the volume of trade in D-8 by more than 7 times to date is valuable, but it is not enough.

It is of great importance that the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement be put into effect by all member states as soon as possible.

As Turkey, we have prepared a strategy document to facilitate trade between the D-8 countries and conveyed it to you.

We aim to make progress on these issues by hosting a meeting of our trade ministers during the upcoming period.

My Esteemed Friends,

We should renew D-8 paying heed to current needs, transform it into a project- and result-oriented structure and take steps to speed up decision-making process.

As I mentioned in our previous Summit, I believe that we should further expand our sphere of influence by strengthening our organisation with new members and partners.

Also, I will be remembered for calling for trading with our local currencies during our 2017 Istanbul Summit.

What we have been through over the past four years has proven that this call hit the right note.

In order to protect our countries from exchange-related risks, it is imperative that we focus on trading with local currencies.

In this respect, I find it beneficial for D-8 Clearing House to accelerate its work in this context and to take necessary steps by members who have not yet been included in this mechanism.

The basic core of production, employment and innovation is ultimately the private sector.

We have implemented many structures supporting the private sector under the roof of D-8.

We will continue our dialogue with determination for a more active and coordinated operation of all these structures, especially the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

My Distinguished Brothers and Sisters,

On this occasion, I congratulate the Secretary General Deato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari and all the Secretariat staff, in person of him.

I hope that your Ramadan-i Sharif, which we will inshallah meet next Tuesday, will be auspicious, blessed and holy.

As much as reaching Ramadan, it is also important to live in accordance with its meaning, spirit and values it represents.

We must turn this month into an opportunity not only to increase our prayers, but also to resurrect and remember our brotherhood.

In particular, we should strive to protect Palestinian refugees, Arakanese, Yemeni and Syrian emigrants, who are struggling with cruelty, hunger and poverty, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic, miles away from their homeland.

Let's not forget that; The stronger our brotherhood is, the stronger, steadfast and unshakable our Islam is.

We have no other way out than embracing our brotherhood, strengthening our solidarity, loving each other for Allah and for the sake of Allah.

We once again wish the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and her administration a swift recovery from the fire incident in an hospital that has also effected a number of houses; we already constructed our field

hospital and we are planning to finish and put it at Bangladesh's disposal at the earliest.

May Allah be with us and help us.

As I leave the floor to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, with these thoughts, I would like to thank them for their successful hosting, stating that we will strongly support their Chairmanship.

Peace be upon you.