

REPORT ON THE YEAR-LONG D-8 SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The D-8 Organization clocked 25 years of its establishment on 15 June, 2020. To mark the silver Jubilee celebration of the Organization, the D-8 Secretariat had recommended and subsequently enjoined member states to organize various activities to commemorate the occasion in their respective countries, including the Secretariat.

Accordingly, the following events were held, while some are in the pipeline in member states and the Secretariat:

- i. **D-8 Investment Forum and a Silver Jubilee Reception, Istanbul, Turkiye, 16 June, 2022.**
- ii. **Junior Diplomatic Training programme, 19-25 June, Ankara, Turkiye, June, 2022.**
- iii. **Leaders and Former Secretary General's Messages**
- iv. **D-8 Business Summit, Expo and Multi-Cultural event, 25-27 July, 2022, Dhakar, Bangladesh.**
- v. **D8 Culture and Food Show, Istanbul, Turkiye, 13 August, 2022**
- vi. **D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (D-8 Forum on SMEs), Abuja, Nigeria 23-24 August 2022**

D-8 Investment Forum

The D-8 Secretariat marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation on 16 June 2022 in Wyndham Grand Istanbul Levent hotel. In this regard, the D-8 organized an Investment Forum and a Silver Jubilee Reception, in association with the Union of Chambers and Commodities Exchanges of Turkiye (TOBB), as part of events to mark the silver jubilee celebrations.

The Investment Forum was attended by dignitaries from the Public and Private sectors of member countries, including the Honourable Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkiye, H.E. **Mehmet Muş**, the Federal Minister of Board of Investment of Pakistan, H.E. **Chaudhry Salik Hussain**, D-8 Ambassadors to Turkiye, Heads of Investment Agencies of the member states, President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI)

and Presidents of all the National Chambers of Commerce and Industries from D-8 member states.

At the Opening Ceremony of the D-8 Investment Forum, the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, expressed deep appreciation to H.E. **Mehmet Muş**, Honourable Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye and H.E. **Chaudhry Salik Hussain**, Federal minister of Board of Investment of Pakistan as well as D-8 Ambassadors to Türkiye for gracing the event. He also thanked Heads of Investment Agencies of the member states, President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) and Presidents of all the National Chambers of Commerce and Industries from D-8 member states and Public and Private Sector representatives for their active and meaningful participation at the forum.

Sequel to the opening remarks, the Heads of the Investment Agencies of the D-8 countries made presentations on the various investment opportunities that are available in their respective countries. Presentations were made by the Heads of the Investment Agencies of Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Türkiye, while the Ambassador of Bangladesh presented the investment opportunities that are available in Bangladesh on behalf of the Head of Investment Promotion Agency of Bangladesh.

The presentations were made to over 100 participants drawn largely from the private sector of Türkiye and some member countries. They highlighted the investment opportunities that are available in the D-8 member countries in the hope of attracting investment and promoting intra-trade in the D8 member countries. Generally, the presentations were mostly made in Power-Point format and had indicated that investment opportunities were available in the following key economic sectors of the member countries:

- Energy
- Transportation
- Tourism
- Agriculture and Food processing
- Water resource development

The President of D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Sheikh Fazle Fahim, made a detailed presentation on "Strategies to improve the value chain among D-8 Member States". He highlighted the bottlenecks of the current value chain mechanism among the D-8 member States and presented strategies and proposals to improve the value chain mechanism and promote intra trade among the member states. He indicated that in order to improve the value chain mechanism member states should strive to streamline the six broad area of Value Chain, namely

- i. Commodities such as mineral and energy
- ii. Labor-intensive goods such as Textiles, Apparel, light engineering and Leather products
- iii. Labor-intensive services such as Transportation, agriculture Hospitality, Healthcare, Human resource development
- iv. Regional processing such as Agriculture, Aquaculture, Livestock
- v. Knowledge-intensive goods such as Electronics components, semicon, cybersecurity equipment components, logistics and transportation equipment
- vi. Knowledge-intensive services such as Professional services in ICT, enabling technology across economic sectors, 4IR, Robotics, AI, IOT, Cyber Securities, Skills and R&D.

Avrasya Barter of Turkiye and D-8 are currently exploring the possibility of establishing D-8 Barter trading system to provide an alternate solution for settling the trade balances and development of sustainable economic programme in the D-8 Member States. The initiative, which has been presented to the Commission, is still being developed.

In that regard, and in order to throw more light on the initiative, Representative of Avrasya Barter, Mr. Himmet Karadag, presented the proposed D-8 Barter Trading system model at the D-8 Investment Forum. The presentation gave a background information on Avrasya Barter, including its experience with the barter trading system in Turkiye.

Mr. Karadag highlighted the current stage of development of the proposed D8 Barter System and indicated that the process for implementation among

the D-8 Member State's public and private sector would hopefully include following key features amongst others:

- D-8 Barter Clearing House
- Online Portal for Trading
- Barter Payments Settlement Mechanism

A panel, comprising of Presidents of National Chambers of Commerce and Industries of D8 countries, held during the D8 Investment Forum and discussed the topic "How to improve intra D-8 trade". The panel, which was moderated by TOBB President Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, expressed deep concern with the low level of intra-D8 trade, 25 years after the establishment of the organization.

Panellists and participants alike identified the following constraints as factors hindering the smooth flow-of trade among D-8 countries:

- Lack of implementation of the D-8 PTA;
- Lack of completion of the internal procedure of the D-8 PTA by some member countries;
- antidumping duties in place in some member states;
- additional import taxation regime in some member states;
- supply chain constraints; and
- cumbersome customs clearance procedures.

The panellists and participants alike made the following sets of recommendations on measures to enhance intra-trade in D8 countries.

- Immediate and full implementation of the D8 PTA by all member states, without further delay.
- Member states were enjoined to relax their visa regime especially for business community in line with the **"Agreement of Simplification of Visa Procedure for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States"** signed by all member states on 24 February 2001 in Cairo.
- Establishment of Special Economic Zones in D-8 member states to enable manufacturers within these zones enjoy the privilege of exporting to other D8 countries without tariffs or allocation of special quotas;

- Establishment of an annual D8 Trade Fair to enhance private sector engagements among the member countries.

Silver Jubilee Reception

In continuation of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of D-8 organization for Economic Cooperation, a reception co-hosted between the Organization and the Union of Chambers of Commodity Exchange of Türkiye (TOBB) was held in Istanbul on 16 June, 2022. The reception was graced by dignitaries, Ministers, Heads of Chambers of Commerce, Heads of Investment Agencies, Ambassadors / Consuls-General and Representatives from private sectors.

In his address of welcome at the occasion, the Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, laid out various achievements of the organization since its inception in 1997, and congratulated member countries for having come thus far. He listed those achievements to include, though not limited to, the D-8 Charter, the Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), the D-8 Agreement on simplification of Visa procedures and the Multi-lateral Agreements among D-8 Countries on Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters. All these are in a bid to promote trade and economic activity to engender economic independence.

Speaking at the reception, the Deputy President of TOBB, Mr. Tamer Kiran, expressed the support of his organization for all actions and activities that would help to sustain better and conducive business environment, enhance trade and strengthen infrastructure for improve connectivity.

In his remark, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Türkiye, who was the Special Guest, H.E. Faruk Kaymakci, urged D- 8 Countries to come together and focus more on the problems the world is facing today with the aim of finding solutions. He went to say that D-8 with a combined population of 1.1 billion people could make a difference in the world if they could build their values on cooperation, equality and justice.

One of the highlights of the grand reception was the signing of MoU between the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Turkish Radio and

Television, TRT, with a view of enhancing and developing cooperation between the two organizations in various fields to improve and promote visibility of the D-8. While the Secretary General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam signed for the D-8, Prof. Dr Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, Director General, signed for TRT.

Another high point of the event was the award ceremony to honour organizations that have contributed to the success of D-8 Organization in the 25 years of its existence. Such institutions honoured are, Anadolu Agency, (AA), Islamic Development Bank Group, The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, TEPAV, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), The Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Türkiye (TOBB).

Junior Diplomatic Training programme, Türkiye

The Government of the Republic of Türkiye, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, organized a week-long training programme for Junior diplomats from D-8 member countries as part of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee celebration of the establishment of the Organization.

The training program covered courses on diplomatic skills such as, protocol and negotiations, and included topical issues like global impact of COVID-19 on international trade and economic diplomacy, impact of social media on diplomatic practices and international commercial diplomacy, amongst others. The trainees were issued with certificates at the end of the programme. They also paid a courtesy call on the D-8 Secretariat.

D-8 Leaders and Former Secretary General's Messages:

On the occasion of the silver jubilee of the organization, the Secretariat also received goodwill messages from some of the Honourable Leaders of the Member States as well as former Secretary Generals of the organization to mark the 25th anniversary celebrations.

D-8 Business Summit, Expo and Multi-Cultural event

The D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be organizing the above-mentioned events as part of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the Organization. The events will hold on the margins of the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 20th Council of Ministers Meeting from 25 to 27 July, 2022. The events are expected to attract participants from the public and private sectors of the member countries.

D8 Culture and Food Show, Istanbul, Turkiye

In continuation of the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the D-8 Organization, the D-8 Secretariat will be organizing the above-mentioned event in Istanbul on Saturday 10 September, 2022. The Secretariat, in collaboration with D-8 Missions in Turkiye, will organize the event which will comprise of cultural activities such as food show, music, photo exhibitions etc aimed at promoting the culture and tourism potentials of the D-8 Organization in order to position the D8 countries as the preferred tourist destinations.

D-8 Forum on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (D-8 Forum on SMEs), Abuja, Nigeria 23-24 August 2022

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDAN) of Nigeria has proposed to host a D-8 Forum on SMEs on 23-24 August 2022 in Abuja Nigeria.

The Forum is being organized inline with the request from the D-8 Secretariat to Member States to organize the events at their national level as part of the silver jubilee celebrations of the organization.