

**Statement of the Foreign Secretary at the Opening of the 45<sup>th</sup> D-8  
Commission's Meeting**

**Excellency Secretary General H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam  
Excellency Commissioners of the D-8  
Distinguished Members of the Delegation**

Assalamualaikum and a very good day.

I welcome you all today for the 45<sup>th</sup> D-8 Commission which is taking place at a historical time when the organization is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. D-8 started its journey 25 years ago on 15 June 1997 as an economic cooperation platform among eight developing countries and since then we have come a long way to accomplish our dream. While incubating ideas of technology, trade and investment we are creating scope for our youths to participate in our journey. I would like to thank the Secretary General H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam and the D-8 Secretariat for their relentless efforts over the time.

We are here together on a common platform and I hope we will be able to contribute fruitfully towards this organization.

**Excellencies,**

The factors that have brought our eight countries together includes our similar demographics and consumption pattern, common development needs and experience and common inherited industrial infrastructure, to name a few.

D-8 has passed the take-off stage and it is time we take collective initiatives to devise ways and means for realising the human potentials which are coming with the demographic dividend across each of our respective countries and merge it with the challenge of the 4IR. We have spent the last two decades in identifying the areas which are common for our economic development and formulating

policies and cooperation network to accomplish this goal. We have the potential of businesses and entrepreneurs - who can - with greater incentives and ease of doing business, leverage and capture global markets to their benefit. The D-8 Business Forum is working towards this goal.

Our countries are also faced with the challenge in terms of employment creation and livelihood standard. Just like other economies in the current global crisis situation, the economies of our D-8 member states are also adversely affected. We as an economic organization have the responsibility to create conducive environment by dealing with not only intra-regional necessities and inequalities, but also necessities and inequalities that are global in nature, through pro-active deliberations and associations. We need to take lessons from the present global crisis and concentrate on developing alternate energy source and augment our agriculture productivity for the security of our people.

### **Excellencies,**

The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us how to survive in a new world order facing multifaceted challenges. The world economy has faced a great setback due to this pandemic and the regular development work of countries have been minimized. As the largest LDC in its graduation transition, Bangladesh, under the prudent leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina continues to brave its post-pandemic odds with a robust resilience and a stimulus package of 23 billion USD keeping our economy afloat. We have been efficiently managing the corona virus with providing vaccination to all targeted populace while posting a 6.94% post-covid growth rate in 2021 which we hope will continue in 2022 with a projected 7.25% growth rate.

**Excellencies,**

Dire time teaches us the importance to be with each other and to work and learn from each other. With a combined population of over a billion and an economy projected to reaching the forty trillion marks by 2050 with intra- trade of 129 billion dollar we are only limited by our imagination to make our organisation, one of real-time cooperation, mutual trust and understanding, which can deliver on its true potential.

**Excellencies,**

Let us promise during this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to move forward to make our mark regionally and globally as a recognized and formidable economic force by focusing on necessities of the present world order to provide a better and worry free tomorrow for our people.

I wish you a successful outcome of the meeting.