

Report of the
Special Session (virtual) of the D-8 Commission
08 November 2022

The Special Session of the D-8 Commission was held on 08 November, 2022. The meeting was chaired by the D-8 Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It was attended by Commissioners and delegates from all the Member States. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: - Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the D-8 Commissioner for Bangladesh

Director-General of International Organizations Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Ms. Wahida Ahmed, delivered her opening statement and welcomed the Commissioners and delegates to the Special Session of the D-8 Commission. Her statement is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The Commission considered and adopted the agenda of the meeting which is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 3: Statement by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, delivered his statement by welcoming the Commissioners and Delegates to the meeting. The statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4- Consideration and approval of financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat:

- a) Consideration and adoption of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2023

- b) Procurement of a new vehicle

The Commission discussed the Secretariat budget proposals for 2023, and after consideration, the Commission decided:

- The Commission agreed to increase the salary in the Secretariat's A.1 part of the budget by 5%. The Secretariat will share the amended Secretariat budget for 2023 with Member States by 10 November 2022, with consent to approve the budget on the silence procedure, due by 17 November 2022.

- To recruit an Assistant Director from the Republic of Turkiye and a Programme Officer from the Arab Republic of Egypt, from the Secretariat's budget. Both officers may start from 1 January 2023.

- The Commission discussed how to fund two additional programme officers' posts, which were established by the decision of the 45th Session of the Commission. It was agreed that in the next meeting it will continue to discuss the financial resources for having these two posts filled as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the relevant member states may wish to fill these posts on secondment basis, in coordination with Secretary-General.

- On the matter of purchasing of a new vehicle, the Commission approved the options 2/3 given in **Annex 4**.

Agenda Item 5- Discussion on views and comments received from the member states on granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization, including the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Commission discussed the aforementioned issue and directed the Secretariat to call a meeting of the Working Group on ‘Accession of New Members and Observers’ on 07 December 2022 to work on and develop the criteria and modalities for granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members to join the organization. The Commission also directed the Secretariat to provide an updated draft of the concept note on the subject, which would be circulated with member states, prior to the scheduled Working Group meeting.

The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the Republic of Azerbaijan's membership application and agreed that after finalization on the criteria and modalities, the Commission will assess the application during the 46th Session of the Commission, for recommendation to the next Council of Ministers and Summit.

Agenda Item 6- Any Other Business

There was no discussion made under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7 - Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Special Session of the D-8 Commission

The Commission considered and adopted the Report of its Special Session.

Agenda Item 8- Closing of the Meeting

The chairperson thanked everyone for their important contributions and active participation. She also requested that the issues discussed at the meeting be addressed as soon as possible so that progress could be achieved.

The commissioners and delegation heads also expressed gratitude to the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the meeting. They also complimented the

Chairperson for her competent handling of the meeting's proceedings, as well as the Secretariat for its exceptional work and assistance in organizing the Special Session of the Commission.

The Secretary-General also expressed gratitude to the Chairperson and Commissioners for the meeting's outcome.

The Special Session of the Commission ended on 08 November, 2022.

List of the Participants of the
Special Session (virtual) of the D-8 Commission
08 November 2022

Country	Name and Designation
Bangladesh	<p style="text-align: center;">1- Ms. Wahida Ahmed, Director-General of International Organizations Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2- Mr. Md. Shakil Sahrrior Director (International Organizations)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3- Ms. Shaila Shama Senior Assistant Secretary (International Organizations)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4- Mr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Senior Assistant Secretary (International Organizations)</p>
Egypt	<p>Ms. Ibtissam Hasan, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Regional Economic Communities and Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt</p>
Indonesia	<p>Ms. Penny D-Herasadi, Director for International Organizations for Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia</p>
Iran	<p style="text-align: center;">H.E. Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, Director General of the Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr. Behzad, Director, Senior Expert at International and multilateral Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran</p>
Malaysia	<p>H.E. Mr. Ahmad Kamrizamil Bin Mohd Riza, Undersecretary for OIC and Regional Cooperation Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia</p>

Nigeria	H.E. Ambassador Samson Iteboje, Director, International Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Pakistan	Mr. Sajid Ullah, Assistant Director of EC of the Ministry of foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Turkiye	Ambassador Esen Altug, Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkiye Mr. Mahmut Niyazi Sezgin, Head of the Department, Multilateral Economic Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkiye
Secretariat	H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General and his team

**Statement of the Commissioner at the Opening of the Special D-8 Commission's Meeting, 8
November 2022**

**Excellency Secretary General H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Excellency Commissioners of the D-8
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Assalamualaikum and a very good day.

I welcome you all today for the Special D-8 Commission. Following the decision of the 45th Commission we are gathered to discuss particularly about the Secretariat's annual budget of 2023, procurement of a new vehicle and discussion on the views of granting observer status and permitting accession of new members into the organization, including the membership application of Azerbaijan. 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 through our deliberations today.

Excellencies,

For smooth operation of any organization, proper budgeting is essential which can then be realized through regular financing. The members of the D-8 have been contributing their annual subscription in this regard and we would like to thank them for that. We would further urge our members to find methods of payment of their annual contribution in an attempt to assist in reducing the financial crunch that the organization is facing particularly during the present global economic crisis.

During our period of Chairmanship, Bangladesh has realized that there are a few areas that the D-8 can accentuate after having completed 25 years. There should be a scope of revisiting the Charter and the Statutory Documents as over the years there have been developments in the global scenario and also in the scope of areas that the D-8 wants to focus. Only after having a clear set of guidelines we can move forward towards strengthening and expanding the

organization. The Secretariat can work in these areas and present a draft during the next Commission.

To bring accountability to any organization, a proper auditing system should be in place. We got an opportunity to look at the budget and Bangladesh feels that an effective auditing system should be introduced in the D-8 which will help to ensure proper documentation and expenditure of the budget.

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. We hope that the inclusion of a new member will enhance our objective.

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. It is a time of great challenge and we can come together to put together our efforts in passing through this time.

Thank you.

Adopted Agenda
Special Session of the Commission (Virtual)
08 November 2022

1. Opening of the Meeting and welcome statement by the D-8 Commissioner for Bangladesh
2. Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda
3. Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General
4. Consideration and approval of financial and administrative matters of the D-8 Secretariat:
 - a) Consideration and adoption of the proposed annual budget of the Secretariat for 2023
 - b) Procurement of a new vehicle
5. Discussion on views and comments received from the member states on granting observer status and permitting the accession of new members into the organization, including the membership application from the Republic of Azerbaijan.
6. Any Other Business
7. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Special Session of the D-8 Commission
8. Closing of the meeting

**OPENING STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE SECRETARY
GENERAL OF D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION, H.E. AMBASSADOR ISIAKA ABDULQADIR
IMAM, AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION
HELD VIRTUALLY ON 8 NOVEMBER, 2022.**

**Honourable Chairperson,
Distinguished Commissioners,
Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning/Afternoon and Asalaam Alaikum to everyone,

First and foremost, I would like to express my profound appreciation to all D-8 Commissioners and delegates who are present at this Special Session of the Commission meeting today. I also would like to express my gratitude to the Chairperson of the D-8 Commission and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting this meeting.

Madam Chair, allow me to use this opportunity to recognize and welcome the Head of the Nigerian delegation, Her Excellency, Ambassador Janet Olisah, OON, who is joining us today for the first

time. Amb. Janet Olisah is the Director overseeing Office of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria. On behalf of D-8 Organization, and on my behalf, I warmly welcome Your Excellency to this meeting.

I also want to seize this opportunity to wish two of our Member Countries, namely, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Indonesia, a successful hosting of the meetings of COP 27 and that of G20, respectively. We wish the two countries peace, tranquility, Allah's guidance and protection, as they host these important meetings.

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I respectfully remind you of the decision of the 45th Session of this Commission, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 25-26 July 2022, wherein the Secretariat was tasked with the responsibility of convening a Special Session of the Commission to deliberate and finalize two very important issues, namely:

- i. The Secretariat Budget for 2023; and

- ii. Formulation of Criteria and Modalities for Accession of New Members and Observers into the D-8 Organization.

Distinguished Commissioners, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the issue of the Secretariat Budget for 2023, it would be recalled that the 45th Session of this Commission discussed the Secretariat's budget for 2023 on the basis of 0% increase and directed that the Secretariat should convene a Special Commission meeting to present the revised budget proposal for 2023. According to the 45th Commission's mandate, therefore, the Secretariat is proposing three different options (A, B, and C) for the Secretariat Budget 2023, which have already been circulated to Member States for consideration and subsequent kind approval.

In view of the foregoing, **Distinguished Commissioners, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,** I wish to state that we at the Secretariat are not unmindful of the current economic challenges most of our member states are facing. Consequently, we hereby propose, a

10% moderate increase in salaries for the Secretariat staff under option A, in the sum of **One Million, fifty thousand and Six Euro**, only (**E1,050,006.00**), representing 7.31 % increase from the 2022 budget.

Option B also includes 10% increase in salary, plus the financial implications of filling the vacant posts of an Assistant Director and Program Officer, sequel to approval of the 45th Session of the Commission, which granted approval to the Secretariat to fill the vacant positions, in order to enhance the workforce of the Secretariat; therefore, Option B is in the sum **of One Million, One Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Six Euro**, only (**E 1,188,406.00**) representing 21.45 % increase from the 2022 budget.

Option C includes the budgetary implications of 10% increase in salary, plus one post of Assistant Director and three posts of Program Officers, sequel to the Decision of the 45th Commission that considered increase in the staff strength at the Secretariat to reflect balanced

representation of each of the Member States ; the total budget of Option C is therefore **One Million, Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Six Euro**, only (E **1,284,106.00**) representing 31.23 % increase from the 2022 budget.

I would like to appeal to this esteemed Commission to properly evaluate our submitted proposals in light of the current economic situation and the rising inflationary trend that has adversely affected cost of living. Another reason why our request became imperative is the issue of budgetary imbalances at the Secretariat, due to recent unprecedented decline in the value of Euro against the US dollar. As this esteemed Commission is well aware, Euro is our official currency for the Secretariat budget, and the currency has depreciated by 16% against the USD, in one year, forcing Euro to trade below USD, parity.

Distinguished Commissioners, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the issue of formulation of Criteria and Modalities for Accession of New Members and Observers into the D-8 Organization, the Secretariat approached Member States and requested their views and comments. To date, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, have submitted their comments via diplomatic notes, which the Secretariat has already shared with the Member States. A compilation of the views received is placed before you, under the relevant Agenda item for your consideration and subsequent decision.

Procurement of new vehicle

The urgent need for Procurement of additional new vehicle for operation for the Secretariat was also discussed at the 45th Session of the Commission. The Commission approved, in principle, the request of procurement of new vehicle and directed the Secretariat as follows:

- Leasing option may be explored, provided that Government of Republic of Türkiye grants diplomatic Status for leased Vehicles.
- A Hybrid vehicle would be given priority, while procuring a new vehicle, in view of environmental consideration.

Based on the foregoing decisions, the Secretariat contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye on the availability of leasing facility for diplomatic vehicles. However, Türkiye has notified the Secretariat that such a leasing option is not provided for diplomatic cars, under local regulations.

Following a market survey, and based on the availability of cars in the market, the Secretariat circulated two different options. Annex 3 and Annex 4 are placed in front of you for evaluation and subsequent approval. The Secretariat kindly urges the esteemed Commission to please approve our request for procurement of the new vehicle, which is a required necessity of the Secretariat.

In conclusion, **Madam Chairperson and Distinguished Commissioners**, the Secretariat wishes to kindly request this esteemed Commission to finalize the revised budgetary proposal and reach a consensus decision in order to adopt the 2023 budget.

We may also bear in mind that, in accordance with Article VI of the Financial Regulations, the Secretary General shall not be authorized to

make further payments to sustain the Secretariat's essential functioning, beyond March 2023.

I thank you all for your attention