

Charter of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)

Having regard to the 1st Meeting of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation ('D-8 NPRI' or the 'Network' used interchangeably) held on 21st December 2020 and the establishment of D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation through the 10th D-8 Summit held on 8th April 2021 and in order to comply with the desires of the member states of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation for developing strong emphasis on research and innovation policies and collaboration among the universities in the D-8 member states, as the most promising way to strengthen innovation in the economy:

Whereas

In this Charter unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:

- i. **“Chair”** means Chairperson of the D-8 NPRI
- ii. **“CUI”** means COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan
- iii. **“D-8”** means D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation
- iv. **“Governing Board”** means Governing Board of D-8 NPRI
- v. **“Islamabad Declaration”** means the declaration at the end of the 1st meeting of the D-8 NPRI held in Islamabad, Pakistan in December 2020
- vi. **“Member States”** means Member States of the D-8 NPRI
- vii. **“MoFA”** means Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- viii. **“Network”** see NPRI
- ix. **“D-8 NPRI”** means D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation
- x. **“President”** means the President of the Governing Board of D-8 NPRI
- xi. **“R&D Council”** means Research and Development Council
- xii. **“Secretariat”** means Headquarters of the NPRI
- xiii. **“SMEs”** means Small and Medium Enterprises
- xiv. **“Year”** means July 1 to June 30

and Adopts the Following:

ARTICLE (1) Name

The name would be the '**D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI)**'.

ARTICLE (2) Status

The D-8 NPRI shall be an Inter-State, Non-political and Non-profitable agency. It shall be an independent, autonomous and self-governing organization affiliated with the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. The operations of the D-8 NPRI and any of the office(s) of the D-8 NPRI shall be governed under the laws applicable in each of the respective countries in which such offices are located.

ARTICLE (3) Secretariat

The headquarters of the D-8 NPRI shall be initially situated at the COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan and will be called the 'Secretariat'.

ARTICLE (4) Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the D-8 NPRI include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Expanding the level of innovation in D-8 Member States;
- Identifying research and development capabilities of the D-8 Member States;
- Conducting research and study projects;
- Conducting joint research projects in industrial and technical areas that can facilitate development of the D-8 Member States;
- Strengthening the linkages among universities, research institutions, industry-related organizations and training institutes to develop collaborative research on common challenges and devise strategic discourse;
- Helping industries and SMEs in D-8 Member States by providing research results and technology to overcome the challenges and problems being faced by D-8 Member States;
- Developing innovative technologies for the industries and SMEs in D-8 Member States;

- Promoting collaboration and establishment of Joint Ventures (JVs) with leading companies associated with the D-8 Member States and its affiliate bodies on technical and other matters;
- Promoting new technologies among SMEs in D-8 Member States by providing research materials and inventions to overcome the challenges and problems being face in the D-8 Member States; and
- Initiating Research Fellow Exchange Programme among universities in D-8 Member States.

ARTICLE (5) Organs of D-8 NPRI

The following shall be the organs of the D-8 NPRI:

- i) Governing Board;
- ii) D-8 NPRI Universities Association; and
- iii) Research and Development Council

i) Governing Board

- a) The Governing Board shall be headed by Chairperson of the D-8 NPRI as its President. He shall ensure smooth operations of the Network in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the Network.
- b) Chair of the D-8 NPRI as elected in the Islamabad Declaration 2020 shall be referred to as the Founding Chair of the D-8 NPRI.
- c) The Chairpersonship of the D-8 NPRI shall rotate among the Member States after every two years based on alphabetical order. The Secretariat of the D-8 NPRI shall also rotate along accordingly.
- d) The following shall be the composition of the Governing Board:
 - i. President (Chairman D-8 NPRI)
 - ii. Members - 1 each from the Member States excluding that of the President recommended to the D-8 NPRI through the relevant MoFA of the Member States
- e) All powers shall vest with the Governing Board.
- f) Meeting of the Governing Board shall be convened by the President.
- g) The President shall call session of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association if so requested by two third of the Governing Board members.
- h) Simple majority of the Governing Board shall form the quorum.

- i) The Governing Board shall meet once in two years.

ii) D-8 NPRI Universities Association

- a) The D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall act as the General Body of the D-8 NPRI.
- b) The main objective of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall be to enhance communication and coordination among the D-8 Member States Universities and Research Institutes.
- c) The D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall meet at least once a year, referred to as the Annual Meeting of the D-8 NPRI led by the Governing Board.
- d) Universities which joined the Network prior to the Islamabad Declaration will be referred to as Founding Members of D-8 NPRI Universities Association.
- e) Other universities from the member states may join the Network by joining the D-8 NPRI Universities Association upon expression of interest, communicated in writing to the Secretariat office and upon payment of the subscription fee prescribed for the purpose.
- f) The yearly renewal of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association membership by the member universities will be subject to receipt of prescribed subscription fee at the Secretariat office by each year during the July-September quarter.

iii) Research and Development Council

- a) The Head of the Research and Development Council (R&D Council) shall be a nominee of the President, duly endorsed by the Governing Board.
- b) The R&D Council shall be responsible for assisting the Governing Board in reviewing and assessing the research and development programs.
- c) Each member of the D-8 NPRI Universities Association shall nominate its focal person who shall be a member of the R&D council through the approval of the Governing Board.
- d) The R&D Council shall identify and report to the Governing Board on significant emerging science and technology issues and shall make recommendations in this regard.

- e) The R&D Council may, in addition, perform such other functions as are consistent with its purpose or as may be requested by the Governing Board and in line with the D-8 NPRI charter, by-laws, each as in effect from time to time.

ARTICLE (6) Finances

- a) The finances for running the D-8 NPRI shall be the responsibility of the Member States of the D-8 NPRI.
- b) Further funds may be sought from:
 - i. The host country of the D-8 NPRI;
 - ii. Annual subscription and periodic contribution by the Member States;
 - iii. International agencies;
 - iv. Private donations;
 - v. Income from services; and
 - vi. Any other source as approved by the Governing Board.
- c) The operational expenses of the D-8 NPRI shall be borne either from the contribution of the host Government or from the funds generated through activities of the D-8 NPRI.
- d) No recourse shall be made for the same to the subscription of the member states.

ARTICLE (7) Byelaws

The financial, administrative and legal procedures shall be prepared by the Secretariat office and approved by the Governing Board.

ARTICLE (8) Language

English shall be the official language of the Network in all meetings, documents and correspondence.

ARTICLE (9) Amendments to the Charter

Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by Member States in accordance with the procedures laid down below:

- a) The Charter of the Network may be amended by the Governing Board through three fourth (3/4th) majority vote of the members present and voting, provided that; at such a session of the Governing Board, at least two-third (2/3rd) majority of the total membership of the Governing Board is present.
- b) At-least ninety (90) days notice of such amendments has been received by the Secretariat office before the date of commencement of the Governing Board meeting.
- c) The proposed amendment to the Charter has been communicated to all members at least sixty (60) days before the date of commencement of the Governing Board meeting.
- d) The member states will be allowed to cast their votes through proxy.

ARTICLE (10) Withdrawal of Membership

- a) Any member may withdraw from the D-8 NPRI Universities Association and hence the Network, by submitting a written notification to the Secretariat office.
- b) The Member States fulfilling the above provision shall be permitted to withdraw their membership after the expiry of a period of one (1) year from the date of receipt of such notification by the Secretariat office. However, it shall be liable to discharge all obligations of the membership until the period of such one (1) year is over.

ARTICLE (11) Audience of the Charter

This Decision is addressed to the D-8 Member States and D-8 NPRI Founding Members.

Approved at Islamabad, Pakistan on February 8, 2023

Chair, D-8 NPRI
For and on behalf of the D-8 NPRI.

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