

Report
The 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee on the D-8 PTA (7th SC)
Hosted by the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka, 4 March 2024

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh hosted the Seventh Session of the Supervisory Committee of the Preferential Trade Agreement among D-8 Member States (SC PTA) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4 March 2024. Delegates from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye attended the meeting. The list of participants is enclosed in **Annex 1**.

Agenda Item – 1: Opening by the Chair

The Chair of the 7th Supervisory Committee Meeting, Mr. Noor Md. Mahbubul Haq, Additional Secretary (FTA), Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, officially opened the meeting. The Chair's opening remarks are enclosed as **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item - 2: Remarks by the D-8 Secretary General

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary General, briefed the Meeting on the progress made since the Sixth Session of the SC PTA, particularly on the status of implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA). The D-8 Secretary-General's statement is enclosed as **Annex 3**.

Agenda Item - 3: Adoption of the Agenda

Under this agenda item, the Chair proposed to add one additional agenda item under item- 13 (Election of the Chair of the Supervisory Committee). The Meeting agreed to add the proposed item and adopted the Agenda. The adopted Agenda is attached as **Annex 4**.

Agenda Item - 4: Statements by the Heads of Delegation

The Heads of Delegations of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye delivered their respective remarks. The statements appear in **Annex 5**.

Agenda Item - 5: Discussion on the issues related to the status of the implementation of the D-8 PTA

The Meeting noted with appreciation the shared views from the member states on the need to expedite the operationalization of the D-8 PTA. It also congratulated the contracting members who have completed all their internal procedures concerning the implementation of the PTA, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye.

The Meeting then discussed the existing status of the implementation of the D-8 PTA as reflected in the implementation checklist. The D-8 Member States updated the Meeting on their respective status of implementation as follows:

Egypt is working on the procedures related to finalizing the ratification of the D-8 PTA.

Malaysia will submit the specimen of CoO in green guilloche paper by the end of March 2024.

Nigeria is in the final stage of completing its internal procedures including issuing gazette notification. It is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024. Further, it will update the specimen signs and customs stamps by the end of April 2024 and designate the focal point soon after the meeting.

Pakistan discussed the existing offer lists of the member states with its business community. The business community of Pakistan is of the view that the existing concession lists are not motivating enough for them as they have better concessions available under other trade agreements with many member states of the D-8. Therefore, Pakistan will complete the necessary procedures for the operationalization of its part of the PTA as a ‘Single Undertaking’ after finalizing its offer lists in consultation with its business community.

The latest status of implementation along with the commitment made by the member states during the meeting is attached as **Annex 6**.

Agenda Item - 6: Discussion on setting up a cut-off date for the operationalization of the D-8 PTA

The Meeting had an extensive discussion on the proposed cut-off date for the operationalization of the PTA. The comments from the member states are reflected as follows:

Bangladesh urged to set an indicative date so that the Member States with pending status may feel obligated to complete their pending procedures by that stipulated date.

Egypt believes that this decision comes at an early stage regarding Egypt’s status concerning the ratification of the D-8 PTA.

Indonesia urged the member states to maintain the cut-off date set by the member states in the 3rd Customs Official Meeting which is 31 October 2022, as setting a new cut-off date requires them to revise their gazette notification.

Iran has no objection to any specific cut-off date.

Malaysia concurs with the view of the Secretary-General and highlighted that there is no provision in the D-8 PTA with regard to setting a specific cut-off date for the implementation of the PTA. The implementing Member states may start operationalization of this agreement as soon as they are ready, others may come on board as soon as their internal procedures are completed.

Nigeria has no objection to setting a cut-off date. However, the date should be practical for them to complete their necessary internal procedures.

Pakistan concurs with the view of Malaysia and was of the view that there is no need to set the cut-off date, the implementing member states may start operationalization of the agreement among themselves, and the others may join as soon as their internal procedures are completed.

Türkiye highlighted that maintaining the first cut-off date set by the 2nd Trade Ministers Council, they are implementing the PTA from 01 July 2016. The delegate of Türkiye further opined that the Contracting Members may start implementation of the PTA immediately after their gazette notifications.

Given the above discussion, the Meeting opined that the five Contracting Members i.e., Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye may start implementation and operationalization with immediate effect if not already done so.

Egypt, Nigeria, and Pakistan would complete their necessary internal procedures and start implementation of the PTA when they are ready.

Agenda Item - 7: Discussion on the Offer Lists for the D-8 PTA

(i) Broadening the coverage of Offer Lists:

The D-8 Secretary-General highlighted that existing offer lists from the Member States under the D-8 PTA comprised least or non-traded items that bear little significance for their national economies. This makes it harder for the existing PTA to reach an assertive level.

In order to boost intra D-8 trade, all member states agreed in principle to increase the coverage of the offer lists. However, the member states were also of the view that the agreement must be implemented first by all member states. Then the modalities of increasing coverage of the offer lists be discussed.

(ii) Transposition of Offer Lists:

The delegates from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye updated the meeting that they have already transposed the offer lists into the HS 2022 and deposited the transposed offer lists to the Secretariat.

Nigeria and Pakistan informed the meeting that their customs tariff is already in HS 2022, and they will submit the offer list in HS 2022 when the time comes.

The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to follow up the submission of the offer list.

Agenda Item - 8: Discussion on Capacity Building for implementation of D-8 PTA

There was a consensus in the Meeting regarding the need for capacity building of the relevant officials of the Member States. The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to conduct a country-specific need assessment including the possible sources of financing and technical assistance.

Agenda Item - 9: Adoption of the reports of the Customs Officials and Technical Meetings

The Meeting adopted the reports of the 2nd and 3rd Customs Official Meetings held virtually on 23 March 2021 and 24 May 2022, respectively, and the report of the Technical Meeting held virtually on 05 December 2022. The adopted Reports are attached as [Annex 7](#), [Annex 8](#), and [Annex 9](#), respectively.

Agenda Item - 10: Discussion and adoption of the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA

The Meeting appreciated the experts from the Member States for their efforts in finalizing the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) of the D-8 PTA.

The Meeting recommended the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) of the D-8 PTA to be adopted by the D-8 Trade Ministers Council in its 3rd session to be held in Dhaka on 5 March 2024. The final text of the DSM Protocol is attached as **Annex 10**.

Agenda Item - 11: Adoption of the Trade Facilitation Strategy of the D-8 PTA

The Meeting appreciated the experts from the Member States for their contribution in finalizing the Paper on the D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS).

The Meeting recommended the Paper on TFS to be adopted by the Trade Ministers Council in its 3rd session to be held in Dhaka on 5 March 2024. The final text of the Paper is attached as **Annex 11**.

Agenda Item - 12: Adoption of the “Dhaka Trade Declaration” to be issued by the D-8 Trade Ministers

The Meeting reviewed the draft text of the ‘Dhaka Declaration on D-8 Trade Cooperation’ and finalized it for adoption by the Trade Ministers Council in its 3rd Meeting to be held in Dhaka on 5 March 2024. The final text of the draft appears as **Annex 12**.

Agenda Item - 13: Election of the Chair of the Supervisory Committee

Nigeria offered its willingness to be the next Chair of the Supervisory Committee for the next two years. The Supervisory Committee unanimously elected Nigeria as its Chair for the next two years starting in 1 May 2024.

Agenda Item - 14: Date & Venue of the 8th Supervisory Committee meeting

Nigeria, as the elected chair of the SC PTA, proposed to host the 8th Session of the SC PTA in Abuja in September 2024. The Nigerian proposal was welcomed by the Member States.

Agenda Item - 15: Any Other Business

No item was raised by the Member States under this agenda item.

Agenda Item - 16: Adoption of the Meeting Report

The Supervisory Committee considered and adopted the report of its 7th session.

Agenda Item - 17: Closing Session

The D-8 Secretary-General conveyed profound gratitude to the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the meeting and warmly thanked Mr. Noor Md. Mahbul Haq for his competent chairing.

In his Closing Remarks, the Chair expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to all delegates for their fruitful discussions and commended the constructive outcome of the deliberations.

The Meeting also appreciated the Secretariat for its valuable work.

**List of Delegation for
7th Session of the Supervisory Committee
4 March 2024**

Country	Name and Ministry
Bangladesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noor Md. Mahbubul Haq (Head of Delegation) Additional Secretary (FTA), Ministry of Commerce noor.mahbub@gmail.com; +88 0171 1566961 2. Md. Abdus Samad Al Azad Joint Secretary (FTA-1), Ministry of Commerce alazad69@gmail.com; +88 01715017316 3. Mr. Abu Abdullah Al Sadat First Secretary, National Board of Revenue sadat.cb.feivd.gmail.com; +8801722040265 4. Ms. Mahbuba Khatoon Minu Deputy Secretary (FTA-6), Ministry of Commerce mahbuba.8033@gmail.com; +8801706364964 5. Mr. Md. Moshiul Alam Joint Chief, Bangladesh trade and Tariff Commission alambtc@gmail.com; Phone:+8801711242823 Phone: +8801711242823 6. Mr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs io1@mofa.gov.bd; +8801719577194
Egypt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Omar M.E.A. Fahmy The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the People's Republic of Bangladesh 2. Mr. Mina Makary Second Secretary Embassy of Arab Republic of Egypt in Dhaka minamakary@hotmail.com
Indonesia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Gangsar Kurniawan (Head of Delegation) Trade Negotiator, Ministry of Trade 2. Mr. Mohamad Iqbal Djamil Trade Negotiator, Ministry of Trade

	<p>3. Mr. Catur Atmo Siswo N. Trade Negotiator, Ministry of Trade</p> <p>4. Mr. M Robbi Firly Harkha Attaché, Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Dhaka</p> <p>5. Mr. Sapto Rudiyanto Staff, Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Dhaka</p>
Iran	<p>1. Mr. Seeyed Mohammad Sadegh Ghanadzadeh (Head of Delegation) Deputy of Trade Promotion Organization Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade</p> <p>2. Mr. Hadi Talebian Moghadam Director General of Indian Subcontinent Office of TPO htmoghaddam@yahoo.com Phone: +98 902 158 03 79)</p> <p>3. Mr. Mostafa Yektafar Expert of Legal Vice Presidency mostafa.yektafar@yahoo.com Phone: +98 913 791 22 72)</p> <p>4. Mr. Behzad Azarsa Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation Office, MFA</p> <p>5. Mr. Hossein Kabirifard Liaisons & Public Relations of Trade Promotion Office</p>
Malaysia	<p>1. Mr. Jaya Singam A Rajoo, Head of Delegation (Head of Delegation) Senior Director Multilateral Policy and Negotiations Division Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) jaya@miti.gov.my / +6012-285 6840</p> <p>2. Mr. Wan Ahmad Farhan, Member Assistant Director Bilateral Economic and Trade Relations Division Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) wanfarhan@miti.gov.my / +6017-377 2522</p>

Nigeria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Amb. Nura Abba Rimi (Head of Delegation) Permanent Secretary Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. 2. Mr. Felix Charles Nwachinemere Assistant Director Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. felix.charlesn2018@gmail.com 3. Mr. Mohammed Khalilu Personal Assistant to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.
Pakistan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Diyar Khan (Head of Delegation) Director General, SIFC and ED Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2. Dr. Mohammad Adnan Joint Secretary, Foreign Trade-I Ministry of Commerce 3. Mr. Abdullah Khan Tareen Section Officer (North East Asia) Ministry of Commerce
Türkiye	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Ayşegül DEMİR (Head of Delegation) Trade Expert, Delegate agbala@trade.gov.tr; +905333838532 2. Mr. Nurullah Asım AKBULUT Trade Expert, Delegate akbulutn@trade.gov.tr; +905054406784
D-8 Secretariat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amb. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam (Head of Delegation) Secretary-General Isiaka.imam@developing8.org 2. Mr. Punjul Setya Nugraha Director for Economy, Implementation and External Relations Punjul.nugraha@developing8.org 3. Mr. Md Biplob Tarafder Program Officer Biplob.tarafder@developing8.org +905365044842

**Speech of the Head of Delegation, Bangladesh for the 7th Session of the
Supervisory Committee Meeting of the D8 PTA**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim!

Respected Chair of the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D8 PTA

Hon'ble D8 Secretary General

Excellency Head of Delegations of D8 Supervisory Committee

A very good morning to you all and welcome to this historic city of Dhaka, a 400 year old city of art festivals, religious diversity, and over all a city of mosque because of its Islamic architecture. It was once famous for its sea/riverine trade.

I trust you had a pleasant stay last night.

At the outset I recognize your commitment that you travelled all the way to Bangladesh for attending the Supervisory Committee Meeting. We feel honoured and grateful.

Distinguished Heads of Delegations/delegates from the Member States

At the outset I would like to briefly touch upon the economic development of Bangladesh that has been growing steadily for the last one decade, we are happy that Bangladesh will graduate from the LDC by 2026 under the leadership of our Hon,ble Prime Minister HE Sheikh Hasina. During the last fiscal year, we achieved a GDP growth of 6.03% despite the global economic crisis. We firmly believe that if D-8 Platform works at a more assertive level, trade, services, investment, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship, agriculture, intra-regional tourism will increase among the Member States.

Distinguished Delegates

We are happy to inform this meeting that Bangladesh effectuated the D-8 PTA on 21 July that was the most important agenda of the Developing 8 countries. We are also congratulating the other notifying countries that are Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Turkiye. We hope that the rest of the Member States will complete the necessary internal procedures at their earliest convenient time

for successful effectuation of the D-8 PTA. I am sure that the effectuation of D-8 PTA will help harmonize intra-country trade, liberalize the barriers, and stimulate trade and economic cooperation among the Member States. We are fortunate enough that the D-8 PTA became effectuated during the chairmanship of Bangladesh after 27 years of the establishment of Developing -8 in 1997.

Distinguished Delegates

Now I want to point out the ambitious target of the D-8 intra-trade among the Member States that is 500 billion US Dollars. The D-8 intra-trade amounted 109.2 billion on 2017, 111 billion on 2018 and 122 billion on 2022. As it is steadily increasing, it is time to revise the intra-trade target realistically in the light of the latest quantitative projections. If the Member States agree to increase their product coverage considering their total tariff lines, intra-trade may be increased. However, it is observed that the Member States are willing to sign new bilateral PTA and even FTA ambitiously that grant significant tariff reduction to one another. D-8 PTA, on the other hand, remains trivial with most of the offer lists being comprised of least or non-traded items which bear little significance. In this regard, Member States may discuss in this meeting including intermediate goods in their offer lists, capitalizing on the complementarity of their production structure.

Distinguished delegates

As we gather here today, guided by the overarching theme of "Inclusive Trade for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," we are reminded of our shared commitment to harness trade as a catalyst for sustainable development. This theme underscores the imperative of creating a more inclusive trading system that empowers underrepresented groups such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs), youth, women entrepreneurs, and small-scale industries. By enhancing their participation in international trade, we can unlock greater economic growth, foster entrepreneurship, and advance towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Hon,ble SC Delegates,

Bangladesh is thankful to the trade negotiator of the Members States and D-8 Secretariat who did the troublesome works of negotiation to implement D-8 PTA, finalization of Trade Facilitation

Strategy (TFS) Paper and Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM). Without their immense support and contribution, it would not have been possible to bring these agreements, strategy papers and protocol into reality. I am optimistic that new negotiations will start to include trade in services and investment in the second phase very soon.

Respected Delegates,

We hope that we will be able to discuss the already finalized instruments like D8 TFA and DSM. I congratulate all the negotiators for their valuable time and efforts. Thanks to the D8 Secretariat for their all-out endeavour for getting these geographically isolated Developing Nation going forward. We look forward to a fruitful discussion today.

I thank you all for taking the trouble of flying to Bangladesh. We wish you a happy stay in Dhaka.

Joy Bangla

May Bangladesh live long.

**Statement by the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador
Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, for the 7th Session of the
Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA hosted by the
People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 4 March 2024**

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be back in this beautiful City of Dhaka today to attend the Seventh Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement.

I congratulate the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, particularly the Ministry of Commerce, for the excellent arrangement made for this crucial meeting, and for the warm hospitality accorded me and my delegation. I also want to thank all delegates for attending this meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

My statement will comprise of three main parts: firstly, an overview of the Supervisory Council of the D8 PTA; secondly, the current status of our trade cooperation agenda; and finally, the way forward for the D-8 trade cooperation.

But before I proceed, I want to congratulate Bangladesh for picking the unified theme of the 7th Supervisory Committee meeting and the 3rd Trade Ministers Council: '**Inclusive Trade for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.**' The theme underscores the importance of creating a more inclusive trading system for the D-8 that ensures participation from under-represented sectors like small and medium enterprises (SMEs), small-scale start-ups, small-scale industries, and youth and women entrepreneurs.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates.

Firstly, I want to recall that our countries signed the D-8 PTA and the Multilateral Agreement on Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters in 2006 to harness our immense trade potentials. Those two D-8 fundamental Agreements have been in force since October 2011. Subsequently, under Article 27 of the D-8 PTA, we established the Supervisory Committee on the D-8 PTA (SC PTA) to review, monitor, and strategize for effective implementation of the D8 PTA.

Thus far, the SC PTA has convened six regular and one special session. The Supervisory Committee's last session was held virtually on 26 January 2021. That Meeting underlined the full implementation of the PTA by the Contracting Members and drew

31 March, 2021 as the cut-off date for the commencement of its implementation. Unfortunately, we missed that cut-off date.

To ensure its effective implementation, the D-8 PTA also convened the Customs Officials Meeting. Thus far, three Customs Officials meetings have been organized. In the 3rd Customs Official Meeting, which Bangladesh hosted virtually on 24 May 2022, the Contracting Members expressed their strong commitment to finish their internal procedures to implement the D8-PTA and to meet the deadline of 31 October 2022, for full implementation of the PTA.

However, we missed again the cut-off date, because the SC and TMC could not convene their respective meeting to endorse it. Therefore, during this August meeting, I hope the Supervisory Committee can endorse 31 October 2022 as the adopted cut-off date for the PTA implementation.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates.

Secondly, and with regard to the current status of our trade cooperation, the following issues are noteworthy:

- Seven Member States, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye, have ratified the D-8 PTA, making them the Contracting Members of the D-8 PTA.
- Egypt is in the final stage of its ratification process, citing the need to finalize and adopt the Dispute Settlement Mechanism to finally finalize the ratification process.
- All Member States, excluding Egypt, have submitted their offer lists.
- Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye have completed the necessary internal procedures to implement the D-8 PTA, namely:
 - Issuing the Gazette Notification.
 - Submitting the specimen of Customs stamps and signatures.
 - Submitting the specimen of the Certificate of Origin.
 - Assigning focal authorities and their contact person.

- To date, only Türkiye has operationalized the D-8 PTA. They started trading under the D-8 PTA in 2020.

More than 18 years, since we signed the D-8 PTA and the D-8 Customs Agreement, and 11 years since their entry into force, we are yet to reap the full benefits of the Agreement.

However, I am happy to note that our situation is not entirely gloomy. Seven of our member states have ratified the D8 PTA. In addition, the Contracting Parties have concluded the negotiation for two important documents, namely; the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) protocol of the D-8 PTA and the Paper on Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS). What is now required is for this August gathering to endorse these two important documents, as a prelude to the organization-wide implementation of the D-8P TA.

Therefore, I call on this noble Meeting to officially endorse those two crucial documents, which will be subsequently presented to the 3rd Trade Ministers Council tomorrow, for adoption. On this note, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Experts from the Member States who took part in the negotiation rounds and put their painstaking efforts into finalizing the documents, which would enable us to implement the D-8 PTA, smoothly.

***Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,***

As for the way forward, allow me to propose some recommendations, for consideration and endorsement, of the Supervisory Committee.

First, we must strengthen our institutional mechanism by ensuring that the SC PTA, meets frequently, possibly twice annually, to discuss matters relevant to implementing the D-8 PTA. For this

purpose, each Member State must nominate their respective officers as members of the Supervisory Committee, as provided for in the PTA.

Second, revising the Offer Lists and the Concessional Tariff rates for the long-term target, is desirable. As we know, the existing Offer Lists comprise the least or non-traded items that bear little significance for the national economies of the D-8 Member States. The Concessional Tariff rates, which is 10% from the fourth year of implementation and onwards, is also becoming obsolete as the Member States are getting more concessional rates from their other trading partners, without any agreement. Therefore, a more comprehensive and ambitious Offer List and tariff rates will attract the private sector to trade, under the provision of the D-8 PTA.

Third, we need training, in the form of capacity-building workshops, for our customs and trade officials to share experiences and best practices to implement the D-8 PTA, effectively. The D-8 Secretariat is endeavoring to forge collaboration with other international organizations to capitalize on their resources and technical assistance for the benefit of the Member States. Furthermore, we need to promote triangular cooperation to promote training and capacity development.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates.

We at the D8 Secretariat have observed that the D-8 PTA is not well known in the member states, especially among the private sector and businesses who are the major beneficiaries of the Agreement. This is a very serious issue, as private sector's engagement is crucial for the success of this Agreement. Therefore, I want to call upon all Member States to organize

sensitization programs to introduce the D-8 PTA and its benefits in their respective member states.

Lastly, I wish to enjoin member states who have not completed their necessary internal procedure for the D8 PTA, to expedite action to complete it. Moreover, we need to encourage Contracting Members, who are ready to implement the Agreement, to do so and proceed to trade under the D-8 PTA.

To conclude, **Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen**, I am confident that with the help of the D-8 PTA, our intra-trade will further increase, to meet its set target of at least 10% of the D-8's total external trade value, or at least 500 billion US Dollars by 2030.

I wish us a successful deliberation for today's meeting. I thank you for your kind attention.

**The 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee on the D-8 PTA (7th SC)
Hosted by the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka, 4 March 2024**

Agenda

- Agenda Item - 1: Opening by the Chair**
- Agenda Item - 2: Remarks by the D-8 Secretary General**
- Agenda Item - 3: Adoption of the Draft Agenda**
- Agenda Item - 4: Statement by the Heads of Delegations**
- Agenda Item - 5: Discussion on the issues related to the status of the implementation of the D-8 PTA**
- Agenda Item - 6: Discussion on the setting up a cut-off date for the operationalization of the D-8 PTA**
- Agenda Item - 7: Discussion on the Offer Lists for the D-8 PTA**
- Agenda Item - 8: Discussion on Capacity Building for implementation of D-8 PTA**
- Agenda Item - 9: Adoption of the reports of the Customs officials and Technical Meetings**
- Agenda Item - 10: Adoption of the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA**
- Agenda Item - 11: Adoption of the Trade Facilitation Strategy of the D-8 PTA**
- Agenda Item - 12: Adoption of the “Dhaka Trade Declaration” to be issued by the D-8 Trade Ministers**
- Agenda Item - 13: Election of the Chair of the Supervisory Committee**
- Agenda Item - 14: Date & Venue of the 8th Supervisory Committee meeting**
- Agenda Item - 15: Any Other Business**
- Agenda Item - 16: Adoption of the Meeting Report**

Statement by the HoDs of the Member States
In the 7th Meeting of the Supervisory Committee

5.(A). Statement by the HoD of Indonesia:

Assalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh, may peace be upon us;

Mr Chairman of the 7th Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA, Secretary General of the D-8, Senior Officials, Colleagues and Distinguished delegates of the D-8 Member States;

Ladies and gentlemen,

A Very Good Morning,

First of all, let me join others in thanking the government of Bangladesh for the excellent arrangement of the meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us. On this significant occasion, allow me to extend my warm greetings to all of you. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we gather here today to delve into the progress and implementation of the D-8 PTA agreement.

I would like to express our gratitude to the D-8 Member States for their steadfast commitment to fostering economic cooperation and realizing the potential of the D-8 platform. I believe through all Member States collective efforts; we will lay a solid foundation for stronger integration and serve as a catalyst for sustainable growth and development.

Mr Chair, Senior Officials, Colleagues and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of our esteemed delegation, I stand before you today to provide a brief national statement highlighting the latest progress in implementing the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Since November 2022, we have submitted our official notification to the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied by the requisite supporting documents, including the Gazette notification, contact points, and a comprehensive product list in HS 2022. This reflects Indonesia's commitment to fulfilling all necessary requirements for the successful implementation of the PTA.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize that Indonesia is a proponent of commencing the implementation of the D-8 PTA without delay. This view was echoed during the discussions held by the members at the Customs Official Meeting on May 22nd, 2022, as well as the Technical

Meeting on December 5th, 2022. We believe that it is time to translate our shared aspirations into tangible actions and benefits for our member countries.

We are looking forward to the successful implementation of the D-8 PTA and the overall objectives of our esteemed organization. I am of the view that through ongoing cooperation and collective determination, we can continue to build resilient economies, promote sustainable development, and ensure prosperity for our nations and people.

Mr Chair, Senior Officials, Colleagues and Distinguished Delegates,

I believe that the implementation of the D-8 PTA holds a great potential for all member nations. It opens doors to expanded trade, increased investment opportunities, and enhanced economic cooperation. By reducing trade barriers and promoting preferential tariffs, we can unlock new avenues of growth and prosperity.

I express my gratitude to each member of the Supervisory Committee for their dedication and support. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen our bonds, deepen our economic integration, and forge a path towards shared prosperity.

Thank you

5.(B). Statement by the HoD of Malaysia

COUNTRY STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA

**THE 7TH SESSION OF
THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE D-8 PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT (D-8 PTA)**

***“Theme: Inclusive Trade for Achieving the Sustainable Development
Goals”***

3 MARCH 2024

Thank you Chair,

H.E. Noor Md Mahbubul Haq
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
Bangladesh

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

A very good morning to everyone.

It gives me great pleasure to be here for the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee (SC) of the D-8 PTA, following several expert meetings held in

virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the 6th Session of the SC held in 2021.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded. I would also like to thank the D-8 Secretariat and experts from the D-8 Member 1qStates for their tireless efforts and valuable contributions towards the implementation of the D-8 PTA, including the finalisation of the draft texts of the D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) Paper and the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM).

We believe that this meeting provides a timely opportunity for D-8 PTA Contracting Members to discuss and review the current state of play, particularly with regard to its implementation and operationalisation following the 6th Session of the SC, as well as 3rd Customs Officials Meeting, and Technical Meeting held in 2022.

This meeting also serves as an important platform for experts from the D-8 PTA Contracting Members to engage productively, discuss pending issues, share their experiences and best practices with regards to the implementation particularly on transposing existing offer lists into the HS Line of 2022 and enhancing the capacity of the relevant officials of the D-8 Member States, as well as finalise a cut-off date for the operationalisation of the D-8 PTA.

The Malaysian delegation also recognises the significance of today's meeting in developing a future road map for the possible expansion of the D-8 PTA following the Agreement's full implementation. I would like to echo the views and targets set by Ambassador Isiaka Imam, particularly in discussing the possibility of revising and upgrading the offer lists in accordance with the economic complementarities of the D-8 Member States to make it more robust and inclusive.

Excellency, Honourable Delegates,

The Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) has enormous potential for development, given the vast natural resources of its Member States, diversified human capital with a population of over 1 billion, and a massive economy spanning three continents amounting to USD5.5 trillion. With a total trade volume of USD2.45 trillion in 2022, the D-8 currently account for 7 per cent of global trade. The fact that it includes the leading economies in every corner of the Islamic geography adds a special importance to the D-8.

In this vein, the implementation of the D-8 PTA is of paramount importance in bringing demonstrable benefits to D-8 Member States, owing to its critical role as a catalyst in intensifying intra-D-8 trade through the exchange of trade preferences among the D-8 PTA Contracting Members.

In the face of the changing dynamics of global trade and current global economic uncertainties, the D-8 PTA will also serve as a solid foundation for strengthening trade links and cooperation among its Member States, which will generate significant economic benefits. Lower tariff concessions,

elimination of non-tariff barriers and para-tariffs, as well as harmonisation of goods regulations will allow us to realise the benefits of greater market access for goods and services, creating a more predictable and secure environment for sustainable trade growth among the Contracting Members.

Malaysia commends Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran and Türkiye for fully implementing the D-8 PTA and hopes that their experiences would serve as a guide for the other Contracting Members to follow. Malaysia further applauds D-8 Member States' unrelenting collective efforts in completing their respective domestic procedures for the full operationalisation of the PTA, as well as increasing intra-D-8 trade from USD136 billion in 2021 to USD170 billion in 2022 despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the D-8 intra trade stands at 7 per cent. Malaysia remains steadfast in its support towards its Member States' aspirations to increase intra-D-8 trade to 10 per cent by 2030 as envisaged in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030, and is optimistic that the full implementation of D-8 PTA, alongside the resilience of our economies will make it possible to meet the target.

Excellency, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, the Malaysian delegation acknowledges the significance of today's meeting as an inclusive decision-making platform for the effective implementation of the D-8 PTA and would once again like to thank the

D-8 Secretariat and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
for hosting.

Thank you.

5. (C) Statement by the HoD of Pakistan:

(3rd Meeting of D-8 TMC, Dhaka 5 March 2024)

Statement by Leader of Pakistan Delegation Dr. Diyar Khan, DG (SIFC & ED), MoFA, Pakistan

Excellency Noor Mohammad Mehboobul Haq, Additional Secretary, HOC ROB.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, SG D-8

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to represent Pakistan in the 7th meeting of D-8 Supervisory Committee, in the bustling city of Dhaka.

At the outset, I wish to bring on record our appreciations to the Government of Bangladesh for hosting this important yet long delayed meetings; and our gratitude for the generous hospitality and making excellent arrangement for the meeting.

I also thank the D-8 Secretariat for scheduling the meeting and preparing necessary documents for our consideration.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The D-8 organization for Economic Cooperation was established twenty-seven years ago, with the promise to enhance trade and economic cooperation among the eight emerging economies of the Muslim world. The goal was to enhance intra D-8 trade to at least 10% of member states' total trade flows with the world. This ten percent increase was supposed to be achieved within the first ten years of the organization, and from there it was to be further enhanced in the subsequent years.

However, even this modes goal could not be achieved in as many as 26 years of the organization's existence. In 2022, total Intra-D8 trade stood at USD 170 billion, which constitutes about 7% of the member states trade with the world The goal of achieving 10% Intra-D8 trade, therefore, remains elusive dreams.

A key step towards catalyzing D-8 trade and economic cooperation was the signing of D-8 PTA in 2006, which went into force in 2011. The PTA aims to expand and enhance trade through reduction in tariffs and the removal of para-tariff and non-tariff measures. The operationalization of the PTA is, therefore, necessary to achieve the some of the key objectives of the organization.

While Pakistan considers the D-8 PTA important and is fully committed to tis implementations, we also believe that he tariff concessions offered under the PTA have to be substantial equitable and to achieve and desired goals and targets. There is a need to ensure that the lists are not limited to non-traded or minimally traded goods, but also include intermediate and commonly traded goods on the new HS codes of the member states. This process would not only make the PTA meaningful and attractive for the member states but would also facilitate its early and full implementation. Pakistan will remove swiftly to take all necessary steps for full operationalization of PTA once this process has been completed by member states.

The protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism is an important addition to the PTA and it would enhance confidence of the business community in the member states to do more business with counterpart businesses in the D-8 countries.

Similarly, we believe that the D-8 Trade Promotion Strategy (which is going to be adopted today) is an important supplement to PTA and an enabler of intra-D8 trade.

Another important step in this process would be the streamlining and early finalization of the D-8 Rules of Origin. We hope that member states would arrive at a consensus decision in this regard.

With these important agenda items on its work program, my delegation wishes steady progress and great achievements to the 3rd Meeting of the Trade Ministers Council. **I thank you.**

5. D. Statement by the HoD of Türkiye

7th Supervisory Committee Meeting of D-8 PTA

Opening Statement by Türkiye

Dear Excellency Secretary General,
Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,
Assalam-o-Alaikum,
Good morning,

It is a great pleasure for me to meet You all in Dhaka, on the occasion of the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee, which we are convening back to back with the Third Meeting of the Trade Ministers Council of the D-8.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the esteemed authorities of Bangladesh for the excellent organization of this meeting and the warm hospitality shown so far. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the D-8 Secretariat for their hard work and dedication for the preparation and conduct of this meeting.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

More than two decades have passed since the idea for the establishment of this unique model of regional cooperation was put forward back in 1997 by our visionary leaders of the time. In 2022 we celebrated the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the establishment of the D-8 in İstanbul. Türkiye as the founding member of D-8 has always attached great importance to the improvement and perfection of the existing ties with the fellow countries.

D-8 was created to respond regionally to the global challenges of the time and of the coming decades by the members of this organization, which are not only all prominent actors in their region but also on a global scale.

Since its establishment, D-8 had to face a number of regional and global challenges. Unprecedented challenges we lived through in recent years, including those led by the Covid-19 Pandemic, were huge and had devastating impacts on our economies. Today, even the world is slowly recovering after the pandemic, multiple crises co-exist and continue to threaten our economies and societies. It is more imperative than ever to stick to spirit of cooperation among our countries in this trying times where-in we also live through shifts in political and economic landscape. In order to better locate D-8 in the fast changing world, we should be pro-active, fore-sighted and determined.

D-8 countries representing around 15% of the world population and for almost 5% of the global GDP, have a genuine role to play in re-shaping the future of their economies and societies. D-8 countries should work harder and closer towards playing an effective role in the global economy incommensurate with their collective potential and capacities.

Trade, definitely is one of the major and most promising areas of such closer and stronger cooperation. In order to reach 10% intra-trade of total trade volume by the end of 2030, as was set by our Leaders, we should deploy all possible efforts and where necessary take all the steps decisively.

For this purpose, full and urgent operationalization of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) through addressing outstanding issues and expanding the agreement through further negotiations, holds the key. Once we implement the Agreement fully and open new rounds of negotiations to expand it, current level of

intra- trade which stands around 150 Billion USD will surely go up to our 500 Billion USD target.

Thank you.

**Table 1: Checklist for Implementation Status of the Contracting Members
(Updated on 04 March 2024)**

SI No	Checklist item	Bangladesh	Egypt	Indonesia	Iran	Malaysia	Nigeria	Pakistan	Turkey
1	Gazette notification for implementation of the PTA	Gazette notification in July 2022	Yet to ratify the agreement	Gazette notification in October 2022	Gazette notification in July 2016	Gazette notification in December 2013	necessary internal procedure is pending	necessary internal procedure is pending	Gazette notification in April 2011
2	Specimen of D-8 Certificate of Origin	Submitted	Not submitted yet	Submitted	Submitted (E-CoO)	Not submitted in green guilloche paper	Submitted	Not submitted yet	Submitted (E-CoO)
3	Specimen of Signatures and Customs Stamps	Submitted	Submitted (cannot be used until ratification)	Submitted	Submitted (Online Verification)	Submitted	Submitted (Need to be updated)	Submitted (Need to be updated)	Submitted (Online verification)
4	Designated Contact Office/Focal Points	Submitted	Need designated contact point	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Need designated contact point	Need designated contact point	Submitted