

**Report of the D-8 Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), of Tourism
Ministries/Departments to discuss the announcement of the “D-8 Tourism City of the
Year Award”, or 2025 Virtually held on 19 November 2024**

The Meeting of the Senior Officials from Tourism Ministries/Departments of D-8 member states was held virtually on 19 November, 2024 and discussed the topic of the “D-8 City of The Year Award”, for 2025.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary General of D-8 (D-8 SG) opened the meeting and delivered his opening statement, His statement is attached as (Annex-I).

The meeting was attended by Senior officials from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Nigeria and Türkiye.

Key topics covered included the following issues:

- Whether to announce Antalya as the D8 Tourism City of the Year for 2025, in 2024 or 2025.
- Whether to adopt a "one city per year" approach or select three pre-nominated cities (Antalya – Lahore – Kirman), for the next three years.
- Iran's proposal to develop criteria for the award, aligned with the criteria already established by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The following decisions were made:

Whether to announce Antalya as the D8 Tourism City of the Year for 2025, in 2024 or 2025.

- After some discussions/presentations by the member states, Antalya was officially announced as the inaugural winner of the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award for 2025, through a unanimous decision and support from all member states. It was agreed that the Secretariat would promptly issue a Note Verbale, to formally declare Antalya as the winning city, enabling the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye to proceed with the necessary preparations. Furthermore, it was also agreed that the announcement will also be endorsed by the Ministers of Tourism from D-8 member states, during the upcoming Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, scheduled to be hosted by Egypt in the first half of 2025.
- The meeting further called on Türkiye to submit a comprehensive list of programs, events, and activities planned for Antalya, during its tenure as the First D-8 Tourism City of the Year in 2025.

Whether to adopt a "one city per year" approach or to select "three pre-nominated cities, over for next upcoming three years."

- **Bangladesh:** Supported the "one city per year" approach and emphasized to revise a criterion for tourism city of the year selection, beforehand.
- **Indonesia:** Agreed with the "one city per year" approach.
- **Iran:** Proposed selecting three pre-nominated cities (Antalya – Lahore – Kirman), for three consecutive years.
- **Malaysia:** Suggested either selecting one city per year or one city for two to three years.
- **Nigeria:** Favored the "one city per year" approach.
- **Pakistan:** Supported selecting three pre-nominated cities (Antalya – Lahore – Kirman), for three consecutive years.
- **Türkiye:** Proposed selecting three cities, for three consecutive years but expressed openness to negotiations.

As there was no final decision on this agenda item, the issue will be discussed further at the next SOM on Tourism.

Iran's proposal to developing criteria for the D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award, aligning it with the criteria already established by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other relevant frameworks.

- **Bangladesh:** Agreed with the matrix developed by the Secretariat, but suggested adding score/numbering, for clarity.
- **Indonesia:** Proposed updating the indicator for "Number of Hotels" to include "Homestays" while emphasizing the importance of sustainability certifications for tourism-related entities, such as homestays, restaurants, and hotels. Regarding Tourism Security, Indonesia suggested including the indicator "Number of Measures" and informed that it would share its input with the Secretariat.
- **Iran:** Recommended allowing member states to modify the criteria and select cities until 2027, in alignment with the ECO framework.
- **Malaysia:** Expressed approval of the current criteria, emphasizing that D-8 should develop and maintain its own unique set of standards.

- **Nigeria:** Agreed with Malaysia's position.
- **Pakistan:** Concurred with Malaysia's suggestion.
- **Türkiye:** Supported using selection criteria from other international organizations, while committing to share relevant documents with the Secretariat.

Member States agreed to provide their input on the previously developed criteria. The Secretariat will incorporate the feedbacks received and circulate the revised draft to the member states, for review and subsequent adoption, at the next SOM on Tourism, scheduled to take place in Egypt, during the first half of 2025.

Closing remarks:

Türkiye expressed gratitude to all member states for voting in favor of Antalya as D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award for 2025. Türkiye assured member states of a fruitful year ahead, filled with various meetings and events to promote tourism cooperation in the D8 Organization.

The Secretariat and member states requested Türkiye to share a tentative program of activities, planned for the City of Antalya, to facilitate effective planning and coordination.

The D-8 SG expressed appreciation to all the participants and thanked them for the fruitful discussions and contributions. He assured that the report of the meeting will be shared and that the Secretariat would proceed to make a formal announcement of the City of Antalya as the D-8 Tourism City of the Year for 2025, through the diplomatic channel.

On that note, the meeting was brought to a close.