

REPORT

THE 8TH SESSION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE D-8 PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT (8TH SC PTA)

ABUJA, NIGERIA, 16 JUNE 2025

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria hosted the Eighth Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (8th SC PTA) in Abuja, Nigeria, on 16 June 2025. The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI) of Nigeria is the host organizer of the 8th SC PTA.

Delegates of the Contracting Members of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA), namely the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye, attended the Session. The Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization, also participated in the Session. The List of Delegates is enclosed in **Annex 1**.

Her Excellency Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, MFR, the Honorable Minister of Trade and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, graced the Session with her attendance and graciously opened the Session. In her remarks, the Honorable Minister underlined that the D-8 PTA is more than just a legal text. The PTA is a crucial instrument to achieve the D-8 goals and objectives. She further expected the SC PTA to work in a result-oriented manner, including fast-tracking the engagement with business entities to implement the D-8 PTA effectively. The text of the Honorable Minister's opening remarks is attached as **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 01: Welcoming Remarks by the Chairs of the SC PTA

1. His Excellency Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as the Chair of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (SC PTA), welcomed the esteemed Delegates from the Contracting Members and the Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization to the Session. His welcoming remarks are enclosed as **Annex 3**.

Agenda Item 02: Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

2. The SC PTA considered and adopted the Agenda and Programme of Work for its 8th Session, which appear as **Annex 4**. and **Annex 5**., respectively.

Agenda Item 03: Remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General

3. His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the D-8, presented the progress made since the 7th SC PTA, particularly on the status of implementation of the D-8 PTA. He highlighted that Indonesia and Pakistan operationalized the D-8 PTA since 1 June 2024 and 1 January 2025, respectively. The Secretary-General also underlined other achievements, such as the signing of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol by four Contracting Members in June 2024, the finalization of the ratification process by the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the accession of Azerbaijan as the ninth D-8 member. The D-8 Secretary-General's remarks are enclosed as **Annex 6**.

Agenda Item 04: Remarks by the Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization

4. Mr. Gomaa M. Madny, the Head of the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, delivered his remarks as the representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization. He highlighted the priority of Egypt's D-8 Presidency in the trade sector. He also underlined the need for the effective implementation of the D-8 PTA to promote strategic growth and sustainable growth and achieve the long-term goals of the D-8 Organization. His remarks appear as **Annex 7**.

Agenda Item 05: Statements by the Heads of Delegations.

5. The Heads of Delegation delivered their respective national statements, highlighting their respective countries' progress in implementing the D-8 PTA. The national statements also underscored the need to implement the D-8 PTA effectively by enhancing the communication process among the Contracting Members. The Delegates also discussed expanding the D-8 PTA into a broader trade instrument, such as a free trade agreement or comprehensive economic partnership agreement, through an incremental, appropriate, and mutually agreed-upon set of measures and parameters. They also reiterated their views on expanding the D-8 PTA offer list to include significant trade commodities. The Delegates also underlined the strengthening of the D-8 Member States' shared and collective strength in digitalization, halal economy, and trade complementarity. The Statements appear as **Annex 8**.

Agenda Item 06: Update on the implementation status of the D-8 PTA by the Contracting Members

6. The D-8 Secretary-General presented the status of the implementation of the D-8 PTA. The updated Matrix of Implementation Status appears as **Annex 9**. Member states also updated the meeting on the current status as follows:

- a. **Bangladesh:** The delegate from Bangladesh informed the SC PTA that Bangladesh has completed its domestic procedures and has submitted all documents to implement the D-8 PTA.

- b. **Indonesia:** The delegate from Indonesia informed the SC PTA that Indonesia started implementing the D-8 PTA on 1 June 2024. Until May 2025, 329 Certificates of Origin were issued, with a trade value of US\$ 19.4 million. Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye are the major destinations.
- c. **Malaysia:** The delegate from Malaysia informed the SC PTA that Malaysia has completed all internal procedures and has fully operationalized the D-8 PTA since 1 October 2023.
- d. **Nigeria:** The delegate from Nigeria informed the SC PTA that Nigeria is working to finalize the internal procedure for issuing the Gazette.
- e. **Pakistan:** The delegate from Pakistan informed the SC PTA that the D-8 PTA has been fully operationalized since 1 January 2025.
- f. **Türkiye:** The delegate from Türkiye informed the SC PTA that Türkiye has been trading under the D-8 PTA since 1 July 2016 and called on member states to expedite internal procedures for implementation.
- g. **Egypt:** The delegate from Egypt informed the SC PTA that his country is in the final process of ratifying the D-8 PTA and is expected to implement the agreement on 1 January 2026. He further informed the Meeting that Egypt had signed the DSM Protocol.

Agenda Item 07: Discussion on the pending matters on the implementation of the D-8 PTA

- 7. The SC PTA discussed the pending issues regarding implementing the D-8 PTA, including sharing best practices for its operationalization.
- 8. The SC PTA noted the following delegates' recommendations:
 - a. **Bangladesh** called for increasing the scope of the offer list to cover wider commodities that are significantly traded, to boost the intra-D-8 trade from an initial target of 10% to 30% of the D-8 external trade value. The delegation also proposed an annual D-8 Exhibition to foster trade between member states.
 - b. **Indonesia** called for exchanging data and information related to the utilization of the D-8 PTA to facilitate transparency, further boosting intra-D-8 trade. The Delegate also proposed simplifying data verification by establishing a mechanism for regular data exchange. Such collaboration will enhance transparency and help optimize the operationalization of the D-8 PTA.
 - c. **Nigeria** informed the SC PTA that the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI) is working with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce of Industry, Mine, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) to organize a

sensitization program on the D-8 PTA to improve the understanding of the business community in Nigeria.

- d. **Egypt** also echoed Indonesia's suggestion that the data and information exchange mechanism needs to be improved to get a clear picture of the PTA's implementation status.

9. The SC PTA decided to enhance the information exchange mechanism through the established contact point registered in the D-8 Secretariat, to be supported by the proposed mechanism. The SC PTA tasked the Secretariat to liaise with the proponent countries for the modalities of the proposed mechanism, including the establishment of a template for the proposed data and information exchanges.

Agenda Item 08: Discussion on the possibility of expanding the D-8 PTA

10. The SC PTA discussed the expansion of the D-8 PTA into a more comprehensive instrument, either a free trade agreement (FTA) or a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA).

11. The SC PTA agreed in principle that the D-8 PTA needs to be expanded into a broader, deeper, more aggressive, and far-reaching instrument, and noted ideas proposed by the Delegates as follows:

- a. **Bangladesh** underlined the merit of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement to elevate the D-8 economic standing, and this effort must be supported with the appropriate capacity-building program.
- b. **Indonesia** proposed that expansion from PTA to CEPA should be incremental and practical. Indonesia also supports conducting a study and scoping exercise to determine the best way to expand the D-8 PTA and proposes establishing an expert working group to deliberate on this matter, particularly to identify the need to include investment and trade in services in its provisions
- c. **Malaysia** concurred with Indonesia that the D-8 may venture into an FTA or CEPA, provided the D-8 PTA has been fully implemented. Malaysia also invited all member states to participate in the Malaysia International Halal Showcase, in Kuala Lumpur from 17 to 20 September 2025.
- d. **Nigeria** suggested that member states consider trade-in-services as part of the D-8 PTA.
- e. **Pakistan** endorsed the proposal to expand the D-8 PTA after its full implementation. The delegate also supported the establishment of a working group to look into existing bilateral and multilateral agreements between D-8 member states to ensure the relevance of the proposed D-8 PTA expansion.

- f. **Türkiye** proposed that the D-8 Secretariat hire an external consultant to conduct a study to expand the D-8 PTA to CEPA.
- g. **Egypt** proposed the establishment of a committee of experts/working group to study the current position and to determine the best way forward to expand the D-8 PTA to either an FTA or CEPA.

12. The SC PTA agreed that a scoping exercise and comparative study for the proposed D-8 PTA expansion must be conducted in earnest, with a target to submit the findings to the next D-8 Trade Ministers Council session.

13. The SC PTA further tasked the Secretariat to liaise with the Contracting Members to establish the proposed experts working group to lay a foundation for the scoping exercise and comparative studies.

Agenda Item 09: Discussion on the Offer List of the D-8 PTA

14. The D-8 Secretary-General informed the SC PTA that the current offer list does not encourage the private sectors to trade under the D-8 PTA, as it offers the least significant traded items for the D-8 member states.

15. The SC PTA recalled that the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC), during its 3rd Session held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 March 2024, tasked the Secretariat to conduct a study to expand the D-8 PTA Offer List and to report its findings during the 8th SC PTA. On this matter, the Secretary-General informed the SC PTA that the Secretariat has approached several entities, including the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), to initiate the studies. However, the study could not be conducted since the proposed studies require significant budgetary allocation, which the D-8 Secretariat lacks. To this end, the Secretary-General called upon the Contracting Members to volunteer to conduct the study.

16. The SC PTA reiterated its agreement in principle that the D-8 offer list must be expanded to include the vastly traded commodities in a multi-step approach. Several Contracting Members indicated that the expansion could be done on a request basis or through the ‘wish list’ submission mechanism.

17. The SC PTA called on the Contracting Members, who have not done so, to submit their respective offer lists in the Harmonized Code (HS) 2022 and resubmit them to the D-8 Secretariat. The SC PTA also tasked the Secretariat to liaise with the Contracting Members to obtain the HS 2022 Offer List.

18. The SC PTA agreed to establish a working group to discuss expanding the existing offer list and transposing it to the HS 2022. The proposed working group will also work on the request-based expansion of the offer list.

19. The Secretary-General recalled the offer by the Republic of Türkiye, expressed during the 3rd Session of the D-8 TMC, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 March 2024, to host

negotiations on the expansion of the offer list, and called on the Delegation of Türkiye to announce the date for the negotiation process.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion on the Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance

20. The SC PTA discussed the need for capacity-building programs and technical assistance to implement the D-8 PTA. The D-8 SG invited member states to volunteer to offer capacity-building and training programs for D-8 member states and Secretariat Trade Officers.

21. The D-8 Secretary-General informed the SC PTA that, under the decision of the 3rd D-8 TMC, the D-8 Secretariat has circulated a call for submission of the needs for assessment. Thus far, only Bangladesh has submitted its needs assessment. The Secretary-General reiterated his call on the Contracting Members to submit their respective needs assessment to facilitate more suitable and relevant capacity-building programs that meet the Contracting Members' requirements.

22. Indonesia recalled that it initially volunteered to host a Customs capacity-building workshop. However, due to the national budget efficiency policy, Indonesia will not be in a position to host the D-8 PTA capacity-building workshop. Nonetheless, Indonesia remains committed to supporting the capacity-building program through technical engagement, knowledge sharing, and participation in future capacity-building initiatives.

23. Malaysia proposed collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), to provide technical assistance and expertise through capacity-building programs relevant to implementing the D-8 PTA.

24. The SC PTA underscored the importance of capacity-building programs for the relevant trade and customs officers, including facilitating seamless trade and customs procedures to implement the D-8 PTA. The SC PTA also tasked the Secretariat to approach potential development partners to support the capacity-building programs.

Agenda Item 11: Date and Venue of the 9th Session of the SC PTA

25. Nigeria informed the meeting that the date and venue for the 9th PTA will be communicated to the D-8 Member States through the diplomatic channel in due course.

Agenda Item 12: Any Other Business

26. Indonesia invited all D-8 Member States to attend the Trade Expo Indonesia, to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 15 to 19 October 2025. They informed the SC PTA that, as the premier trade exhibition in the Southeast Asian Region, the Trade Expo Indonesia offers a unique business opportunity to the D-8 Member States.

27. Bangladesh reiterated its interest in organizing the First D-8 Youth Multi-Stakeholder Meeting in Dhaka in 2025, at a date to be announced later. Bangladesh encouraged all D-8 Member States to participate and to nominate participants for the meeting.

28. The D-8 Secretary-General invited all Delegates to a Launch of the D-8 SME Center, hosted by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) on Tuesday, 17 June 2025.

Agenda Item 13: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 8th SC PTA

29. The SC PTA considered and subsequently adopted the Report of its 8th Session.

Agenda Item 14: Closing Session

30. All delegates congratulated the FMITI of Nigeria for excellently arranging the well-prepared session. They also expressed their utmost gratitude for the generous hospitality accorded to them for attending the 8th SC PTA. They also greatly appreciated Her Excellency, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, MFR, the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for gracing the Session with her presence.

31. In his closing statement, the D-8 Secretary-General thanked all delegates for actively contributing to producing significant outcomes for the 8th SC PTA. He also reiterated his call for a robust, organization-wide implementation and operationalization of the D-8 PTA.

32. The Chair delivered his closing remarks, underlining his appreciation to all delegates for attending the Session and their positive contribution to its success. He subsequently closed the Session.

The Meeting was conducted in an open and friendly atmosphere, ensuring its success and smooth proceedings.

The List of Participants
The 8th Session of
The Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement

Abuja, Nigeria, 16 June 2025

The D-8 PTA Contracting Members

Bangladesh

- 1. Mr. Mahbubur RAHMAN** (*Head of Delegation*)
Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
- 2. Mr. Md. Firoj Uddin AHMED**
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
- 3. Mr. Mohammad Hashib SARKAR**
Senior Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
- 4. Ms. Falgunee BAGCHI**
Senior Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Indonesia

- 1. Mr. Natan KAMBUNO** (*Head of Delegation*)
Deputy Director General of Inter-Regional Negotiations and International Organizations
Ministry of Trade
- 2. Mr. Fahmi Aris INAYAH**
Charge d'Affaires
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Abuja
- 3. Mr. Gangsar KURNIAWAN**
Trade Negotiator
Ministry of Trade
- 4. Mr. Harryansyah KHAIRUL**
Minister Counsellor
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Abuja

5. **Mr. Muhammad FIRDAUS**
Staff
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Abuja
6. **Mr. Immanuel LINGGA**
Director
Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC) Lagos
7. **Mr. Arif INDRAKUSNADI**
Deputy Director
Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC) Lagos
8. **Mr. Ran DOLF**
Staff
Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC) Lagos

Malaysia

1. **H.E. Aiyub bin OMAR** (*Head of Delegation*)
High Commissioner of Malaysia to the Republic of Nigeria
The High Commission of Malaysia in Abuja
2. **Ms. Sharmini Devi Gopal**
Counsellor
The High Commission of Malaysia in Abuja

Nigeria

1. **H.E. Nura Abba Rimi** (*Head of Delegation*)
Permanent Secretary
Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment
2. **Mr. Tukur Rilwan Muhammed**
Director Trade
Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
3. **Mr. Victor Johnson UDOH**
Deputy Director Trade
Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment
4. **Ms. Aisha Mohammed Kontagora**
Assistant Chief Commercial Officer
Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment

Pakistan

1. **Mr. Nasir HAMID** (*Head of Delegation*)
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Commerce
2. **Ms. Masooma Bushra ALI**
Director (Economic Diplomacy)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. **Mr. Muhammad Samnoon BASRAA**
Trade and Investment Attache
High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Abuja

Türkiye

1. **Mr. Erbay ONĞUN** (*Head of Delegation*)
Commercial Counsellor
The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Abuja
2. **Mr. Andrew Jarafu AFAKIRYA**
Secretary of the Commercial Counsellor's Office
The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Abuja

The D-8 Chairman-in-Office

Egypt (Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization)

1. **Mr. Gomaa M. MADNY** (*Head of Delegation*)
Head of Trade Agreements Central Department
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade

The D-8 Secretariat

1. **H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir IMAM** (*Head of Delegation*)
Secretary-General
2. **Mr. Punjul Setya NUGRAHA**
Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations
3. **Dr. Ismail BELLO**
Executive Assistant III



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY, TRADE &
INVESTMENT**

OPENING DECLARATION

DR. JUMOKE ODUWOLE MFR

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

AT THE

8TH SESSION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE OF D-8

PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT

DATE:

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

PROTOCOL

- His Excellency, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation
- Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation from D-8 Member States
- Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Nigeria
- Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Distinguished Members of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA
- Senior Government Officials and Development Partners
- Representatives from the Private Sector and Civil Society
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
- Media Friends

INTRODUCTION

1. On behalf of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, the Government, and the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, It's a pleasure to welcome you all to Abuja for the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement.
2. It is indeed a privilege for Nigeria to host this important meeting, which comes at a pivotal time when regional cooperation and economic integration must be accelerated to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving global landscape.
3. The D-8 PTA, as many of us know, is more than a legal instrument—it is a symbol of our shared ambition to unlock intra-D8 trade potential, drive industrial growth, and foster inclusive economic prosperity across our member countries.
4. Since the Agreement came into force in 2011, we have collectively taken meaningful steps forward. Yet, we also recognise that there is still a considerable journey ahead to fully realise the promise of this Agreement.

5. As Africa's largest economy and a founding member of the D-8 and as co-champion for the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol, Nigeria remains firmly committed to the goals and ideals of this Organization. We have made significant progress in domesticating the PTA and aligning our national trade policies with its provisions. Our recent ratification efforts and inter-agency coordination underscore our resolve to lead by example in deepening regional economic integration.
6. As we deliberate during this session, I urge us to take a pragmatic, forward-looking approach. We must move beyond procedural conversations and focus on concrete action—action that will elevate the D-8 PTA from a promising framework to a living instrument for economic transformation.
7. We need to ask the hard questions: Are we doing enough to remove existing trade barriers? Are our private sector actors benefiting from the PTA? How can we strengthen the Supervisory Committee's role as a catalyst for results?

8. In particular, we must:

- **Fast-track the implementation of tariff concessions and rules of origin across member states.**
- **Enhance the engagement of the private sector**—the true engine of trade—by facilitating access to information, trade opportunities, and finance.
- **Strengthen technical cooperation and knowledge exchange** to support MSMEs, improve standards, and build industrial capacity.
- **Foster institutional mechanisms** that encourage trade in services, digital trade, and investment promotion within the D-8 space.
- **Prioritize youth and women in trade**, as we build inclusive economies that harness the full potential of our populations.

9. I urge this Committee to adopt a results-oriented approach to deliberations. Let us emerge from this session with actionable outcomes, clear timelines, and mechanisms for accountability.
10. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the diligent work of the D-8 Secretariat, our technical teams, and development partners for their hard work in preparing for this session. Your steadfast contributions have made today's meeting a reality and will continue to shape the outcomes we seek.
11. Our shared success lies not just in the texts we ratify, but in the lives we impact. May this session mark a turning point where resolve meets execution and where vision gives rise to tangible economic opportunity.
12. On this note, it is my honour to formally declare the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement open.
13. I wish us all fruitful deliberations and a productive meeting.

Thank you.

May Nigeria rise to lead Africa's trade renaissance

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**OPENING REMARK BY AMBASSADOR NURA ABBA RIMI, THE
CHAIR OF THE 8TH SESSION OF D-8 SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
ON PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT (8TH SC PTA) HOLDING
IN ABUJA, NIGERIA, ON 16/6/2025.**

Your Excellences,

The Secretary General of the D-8,

The Chair-in-Office,

Representatives of member states,

Officials of the D-8 Secretariat,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Abuja, Nigeria, for the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement. On behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I extend warm greetings and express our gratitude for your presence and commitment to advancing intra-D-8 trade and economic cooperation.

This meeting marks another critical step in our collective journey toward deepening economic integration and leveraging the strength of our member countries to create inclusive economic growth and sustainable development through trade. In deed, the D-8 PTA stands as a key

instrument for fostering closer trade relations, enhancing market access, and driving industrial and investment collaboration across our nations.

As the Chair of this session, I would like to commend the work done by the D-8 Secretariat and the Member States since the last Supervisory Committee meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh last year. Notable progress has been made in implementing the provisions of the PTA, including tariff concessions, harmonization of customs procedures, and steps toward overcoming non-tariff barriers. This notwithstanding, we must recognize that there are still challenges to overcome. Notable among these is the low inter-trade among member countries, and this gathering presents an opportunity to critically evaluate our progress, address outstanding challenges, and renew our commitment to the full operationalization of the Agreement.

Let us, therefore, use this session to:

1. Review the status of implementation across Member States;
2. Identify and resolve technical and procedural bottlenecks;
3. Strengthen mechanisms for transparency and cooperation;
4. And chart a clear path forward to increase trade volumes and value addition within the D-8 framework.

Nigeria remains committed to the objectives of the D-8 and to playing an active role in the realization of its trade and development aspirations. We believe that through collective action, practical policy reforms, and mutual

support, the PTA can unlock significant opportunities for our private sectors and citizens alike.

One way of doing this is through Digital trade which offers significant benefits by reducing trade barriers, lowering transaction costs, and expanding market access for businesses. This can lead to increased trade volume, improved efficiency, and greater economic integration among member states. By embracing Digital Trade, D8 Countries would become more competitive in the global market place and stimulate economic growth by creating jobs in the digital sector and boosting overall trade volume.

Once more, I wish to welcome you to Abuja and urge us all to engage constructively and with a shared sense of purpose. Together, we can make this 8th Session a milestone in the journey toward a more integrated and prosperous D-8 community.

I wish us all fruitful and high impact deliberations.

Thank you all.

The 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement

(8th SC PTA)

Abuja, Nigeria, 16 June 2025

AGENDA

Agenda Item 01 : Welcoming Remarks by the Chair of the SC PTA

Agenda Item 02 : Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

Agenda Item 03 : Remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General

Agenda Item 04 : Remarks by the Chairman in Office of the D-8 Organization

Agenda Item 05 : Statement by the Heads of Delegations

Agenda Item 06 : Update on the implementation status of the D-8 PTA by the Contracting Members

Agenda Item 07 : Discussion on the pending matters on the implementation of the D-8 PTA

Agenda Item 08 : Discussion on the possibility of expanding the D-8 PTA

Agenda Item 09 : Discussion on the Offer List of the D-8 PTA

Agenda Item 10 : Discussion on the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Agenda Item 11 : Election of the New Chair of the Supervisory Committee and the Date and Venue of the 9th Session of the SC PTA

Agenda Item 12 : Any Other Business

Agenda Item 13 : Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 8th SC PTA

Agenda Item 14 : Closing Session

**The 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement
(8th SC PTA)
Abuja, Nigeria, 16 June 2025**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Agenda Item 01 : Welcoming Remarks by the Chair of the SC PTA

H.E. Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, will deliver the welcoming remarks.

Agenda Item 02 : Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

The Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (SC PTA) will consider and adopt the Agenda and the Programme of Work for its 8th Session.

Documents:

- *Doc. No. SC.PTA/VIII/2025/01 – Provisional Agenda.*
- *Doc. No. SC PTA/VIII/2025/02 – Annotated Provisional Agenda.*
- *Doc. No. SC PTA/VIII/2025/03 – Tentative Programme of Activities.*

Agenda Item 03 : Remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General

H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the D-8 will deliver his remarks, highlighting the update of the D-8 PTA since the 7th SC PTA in Dhaka, 4 March 2024.

Agenda Item 04 : Remarks by the Chairman in Office of the D-8 Organization

The representative of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Chairman in Office of the D-8 and observer to the D-8 PTA, will deliver remarks.

Agenda Item 05 : Statement by the Heads of Delegations

- The respective Heads of Delegation of the Contracting Members of the D-8 PTA will deliver their opening national statement.
- The list of speakers will be in alphabetical order.
- The statement is expected not to exceed 7 minutes.

Agenda Item 06 : Update on the implementation status of the D-8 PTA by the Contracting Members

- The D-8 Secretariat will present the update on the Checklist for the implementation status of the Contracting Members.
- The Contracting Members are invited to provide views and comments on the updated checklist.
- The Contracting Members wishing to deliver a statement are invited to subscribe to the list of speakers for this Agenda Item to the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 07 : Discussion on the pending matters on the implementation of the D-8 PTA

The Meeting will discuss the pending issues concerning the implementation of the PTA and define the next course of action to operationalize the D-8 PTA in an organization-wide setting. This will include the readiness of the implementing Contracting Members to commence trade under the provisions of the D-8 PTA.

The SC PTA may also discuss the mechanism for such trade under the provisions of the D-8 PTA.

The Contracting Members wishing to deliver a statement are invited to subscribe to the list of speakers for this Agenda Item to the Secretariat.

Documents:

- *Report of the 3rd Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (3rd D-8 TMC), Dhaka, 5 March 2024.*

Agenda Item 08 : Discussion on the possibility of expanding the D-8 PTA

- A more comprehensive agreement: The Ministers of Trade of the D-8 Member States, during the 3rd D-8 TMC in Dhaka on 5 March 2024 and their Informal Meeting in Istanbul on 10 June 2024, discussed the possibility of upgrading the D-8 PTA to a more comprehensive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA). The aim is to make D-8 a more dynamic, powerful, competitive, and impactful economic bloc.
- Scoping exercise: To that end, the Ministers also discussed the need for a comparative study to define the best possible avenue for such an expansion. A scoping exercise will help the D-8 Member States decide the next action for the expansion discussed.

- The SC PTA may consider establishing an expert group to initiate the scooping exercise to expand the D-8 PTA, as mandated by the 3rd TMC, which any Contracting Members are welcome to Chair.
- The SC PTA may consider the discussion on how to maintain trade in halal products and services to boost inter-trade in the D8.
- Trade in Services: The TMC, during its 3rd Session, mandated the SC PTA to initiate a study to explore the potential sector for trade in services in the next phase of cooperation.
- The SC PTA may consider the following with regard to initiating study to explore the potential sector for trade in services:
 - Allocate a budget for the said study; or
 - Call on the contracting members to volunteer to do the study on behalf of the Group

Documents:

- *Report of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, Istanbul, 10 June 2024.*
- *Report of the 3rd Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (3rd D-8 TMC), Dhaka, 5 March 2024.*
- *Rules of Procedure of the SC PTA, adopted during the 1st Session of the SC PTA, Istanbul, 22 March 2012.*

Agenda Item 09 : Discussion on the Offer List of the D-8 PTA

- Offer List Expansion: The 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. The Ministers of Trade of the D-8 Member States, during the 3rd D-8 TMC in Dhaka on 5 March 2024 and their Informal Meeting in Istanbul on 10 June 2024, discussed expanding the existing offer list to make the D-8 PTA more attractive to the businesses in the Contracting Members and to provide them with more beneficial arrangements. Moreover, the expansion of the offer list is also mandated by the D-PTA and the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030. Türkiye offered to host the negotiation process to expand the offer list.
- Transposition of the Offer List: To date, five (5) Contracting Members of the PTA have submitted their respective offer lists in the HS Line of 2012, Bangladesh Submitted in the HS Line of 2017, and Indonesia submitted in the HS Line of 2022. In the previous Technical Meeting held virtually on 05 December 2022, it was discussed that Member States would transpose their existing offer lists into the HS Line of 2022, which might affect the composition and number of the tariff lines offered by each Contracting Member and would require a further necessary

domestic procedure by the relevant Contracting Member. The Meeting is expected to develop a recommendation on the way forward to the transposition of the Offer List.

- The SC PTA may also consider establishing an expert group to deliberate on expanding the offer list.

Documents:

- [Report of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, Istanbul, 10 June 2024.](#)
- [Report of the 3rd Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council \(3rd D-8 TMC\), Dhaka, 5 March 2024.](#)

Agenda Item 10 : Discussion on the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Needs Assessment for Capacity Building: During its 7th Session, the SC PTA reached a consensus that the relevant officials of the Contracting Members need capacity building. Subsequently, the TMC, in its 3rd Session, mandated the Secretariat to work on a country-specific need assessment, including financing and technical assistance, and submit a report to the SC PTA in their next meeting. As a follow-up, the Secretariat circulated Note Verbale No. TRADE/24/139 of 18 March 2024, requesting the D-8 Member States to identify their respective needs assessment.

Bangladesh is the sole contracting member that has submitted the needs assessment for capacity-building programs and technical assistance for implementing the D-8 PTA. Other Contracting Members and D-8 Member States are invited to present their respective needs assessments for the capacity-building programs.

Capacity-Building Program Topics: The D-8 Trade Ministers, during their Informal Meeting in Istanbul on 10 June 2024, also deliberated convening capacity-building programs by the D-8 Member States.

In this connection, the Ministers welcomed Egypt, Indonesia, and Türkiye's offer to host a capacity-building program for the relevant officials of the D-8 Member States on the implementation of the D-8 PTA.

Documents:

- [Report of the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, Istanbul, 10 June 2024.](#)
- [Report of the 3rd Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council \(3rd D-8 TMC\), Dhaka, 5 March 2024.](#)
- [Report of the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee on the D-8 PTA \(7th SC\), Dhaka, 4 March 2024.](#)
- Doc. No. SC.PTA/VIII/2025/06 – Note Verbale No.: TRADE/24/139 of 18 March 2024.

- *Doc. No. SC.PTA/VIII/2024/07 - Training Needs for the Trade Officials of Bangladesh for Effective Implementation of the D-8 PTA.*

Agenda Item 11 : Date and Venue of the 9th Session of the SC PTA

Article 27, paragraph 1 of the D-8 PTA, stipulates that the SC PTA shall meet at least once a year to review the D-8 PTA's progress.

Moreover, according to Article 3 of the Rules of Procedures (RoP) of the SC PTA, the Chairperson will serve for two years from the election date. In this connection, Nigeria was elected as the Chairperson of the SC PTA during the 7th Session of the SC PTA, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4 March 2024. Therefore, Nigeria will serve as the Chairperson of the SC PTA until March 2026.

In addition, Article 5 of the RoP of the SC PTA stipulates that the Committee shall decide the date and venue of the next meeting during the present meeting.

Therefore, Nigeria is expected to announce the date and venue for the 9th SC PTA in this Meeting.

Documents:

- *Report of the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee on the D-8 PTA (7th SC), Dhaka, 4 March 2024.*
- *Rules of Procedure of the SC PTA, adopted during the 1st Session of the SC PTA, Istanbul, 22 March 2012.*

Agenda Item 12 : Any Other Business

All Delegations may raise any other business during this session.

Agenda Item 13 : Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 8th SC PTA

The SC PTA will consider and adopt the Report of its 8th Session.

Agenda Item 14 : Closing Session

The 8th SC PTA will be closed by the deliverance of the following remarks:

- Remarks by Egypt as the Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization.
- Remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General.
- Remarks by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who will subsequently close the 8th SC PTA.

**The 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement
(8th SC PTA)
Abuja, Nigeria, 16 June 2025**

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday, 15 June 2025

The whole day: Arrival of delegates

Monday, 16 June 2025

**The 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA, to be hosted by the
Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Venue: Venue: Fraser Suite, Plot No. 294, Leventis Close, Central Business District, FCT.

09:00 – 09:30 : Arrival of Delegates and Registration

09:30 – 09:45 : Opening of the 8th SC PTA by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal
Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria

09:45 – 09:50 : Family Photo

Notes: The Opening and Family Photo are open to the public and media.

09:50 – 10:00 : Coffee Break

10:00 – 10:10 : **Agenda Item (AI.) 01. Welcoming Remarks of the 8th SC PTA**

Notes: The welcoming remarks will be open to the public.

10:10 – 10:12 : **AI.02. Consideration and Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work**

Notes: Starting from Agenda Item 02, the 8th SC PTA will be a closed
session/no public or media attendance.

10:12 – 10:20 : **AI.03. Remarks by the D-8 Secretary-General**

10:20 – 10:30 : **AI.04. Remarks by the Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization**

10:30 – 11:45 : **AI.05. Statement by the Heads of Delegation**

11:45 – 12:00 : **AI.06. Update on the implementation status of the D-8 PTA by the
Contracting Members**

12:00 – 12:30 : **AI.07. Pending Matters and Future Direction for the Implementation of
the D-8 PTA.**

- 12:30 – 13:30 : Lunch & Prayer break
- 13:30 – 14:00 : **AI.08. Discussion on the possibility of expanding the D-8 PTA**
- 14:30 – 15:00 : **AI.09. Discussion on the Offer List of the D-8 PTA**
- 15:00 – 15:30 : **AI.10. Discussion on the Capacity-Building Program and Technical Assistance**
- 15:30 – 15:45 : **AI.11. Date and Venue for the 9th SC PTA**
- 15:45 – 16:00 : **AI.12. Any Other Business**
- 16:00 – 16:30 : **AI.13. Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the 8th SC PTA**
- 16:30 – 16:45 : **AI.14. Closing Session**
- 16:45 – 17:00 : Press and Media Gathering (TBC)
- The Chair of the 8th SC PTA.
 - The Chairman-in-Office of the D-8 Organization.
 - The D-8 Secretary-General.
- 18:30 – 21:00 : **Official Dinner hosted by the Permanent Secretary of the FMITI**

Tuesday, 17 June 2025

The Launch of the D-8 SME Center to be hosted by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)

Venue: SMEDAN, No. 35 Port-Harcourt Crescent off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

- 09:00 – 09:30 : Arrival of Delegates and Participants
- 09:30 – 10:00 : Cutting of Ribbon and Official Launching of the D-8 SME Center by the Director General/CEO of SMEDAN and the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment
- 10:30 – 10:45 : Opening Remarks by Mr. Charles Odii, the Director General/CEO of SMEDAN
- 10:45 – 11:00 : Statement by Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General
- 11:00 - 11:15 : Goodwill Message by the Representative of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 11:15 – 11:25 : Good Message by the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

- 11:25 – 12:05 : Remarks by Representatives of the D-8 Member States (5 minutes each in alphabetical order)
- 12:05 – 12:10 : Remarks by Representatives of Nigerian Government D-8 Youth Envoy
- 12:10 – 12:15 : Family Photo
- 12:15 – 12:35 : Tour of the New SMEDAN Corporate Headquarters and Common Facility Centre (CFC)
- 12:35 – 13:30 : Lunch and Prayer Break
- 13:35 : End of Program

Wednesday, 18 June 2025

The whole day : Departure of Delegates

**Statement of H. E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, at
the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee
Abuja, Nigeria, 16 June 2025**

**Your Excellency Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, the Honorable Permanent Secretary of
the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria,**

Distinguished Delegates and Representatives of the D-8 Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and a warm welcome to all.

It gives me great pleasure to address you today at this August **8th Meeting of the Supervisory
Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (SC PTA).**

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting this important meeting and for the generous hospitality extended to all delegations. I particularly wish to thank His Excellency the Permanent Secretary for his leadership, commitment, and close cooperation with the D-8 Secretariat throughout the preparatory process.

As a Nigerian myself, it is both a professional and personal honor to welcome all delegates to Abuja. Holding this meeting in my country brings a deep sense of pride and reaffirms Nigeria's enduring role in supporting and shaping the D-8's vision of prosperity through cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates,

This Supervisory Committee meeting comes at a crucial moment for the D-8 Organization. Your presence here today reaffirms the resilience of our partnership and the high priority that Member States continue to attach to strengthening trade and economic collaboration under the PTA framework.

I wish to sincerely thank all participating delegations for their endeavor in making this meeting possible.

Since the 7th Supervisory Committee Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in March 2024, we have witnessed several key developments that deserve recognition:

First, Pakistan and Indonesia have officially begun implementing the D-8 PTA. Indonesia since June 20224, and Pakistan since the 1st January 2025. Indonesia and Pakistan joined Türkiye, who has traded under the D-8 PTA since 2020.

These important steps contribute significantly to the operationalization of the Agreement and the realization of our goal to enhance intra-D-8 trade flows.

Second, the **Dispute Settlement Mechanism** (DSM) Protocol was signed by four Contracting Parties during the informal meeting of D-8 Trade Ministers in Istanbul in June 2024. This serves a vital development that reinforces confidence in the legal structure underpinning the PTA and offers Members a fair and predictable process for resolving trade-related disagreements.

Third, Egypt, the current Chairman-in-Office of our Organization is in the final stages of the ratification process. We remain hopeful that the instrument of ratification will be deposited in the very near future. Egypt's accession to the Agreement as a Contracting Member will represent a major milestone, significantly strengthening the Agreement's reach and economic value.

Fourth, the Republic of Azerbaijan formally became the 9th Member State of the D-8 in March 2025. As we welcome our newest Member into the family, we look forward to Azerbaijan eventually joining the PTA framework, a move that would expand our internal market and enhance connectivity across regions.

These developments are not merely procedural achievements. They are signals of renewed momentum and political will, reflecting our shared understanding that the D-8 PTA is not only a trade mechanism but also a strategic instrument for fostering inclusive development, industrial competitiveness, and regional integration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we convene for this meeting, I wish to reaffirm that intra-D-8 trade remains the foundational pillar of our Organization. The D-8 was established with a clear mandate: to create an enabling

environment for expanding economic cooperation among Member States, primarily through trade.

The Preferential Trade Agreement, conceived as a tool to translate that vision into reality, is now entering a new phase of implementation and institutional maturity.

Furthermore, the current global trade environment is undergoing considerable turbulence, marked by escalating tariff tensions, most notably between major economies. The resurgence of protectionist policies, manifested in unilateral tariff hikes and retaliatory measures, has not only disrupted supply chains but also heightened uncertainty across global markets.

These developments pose direct and indirect challenges to D-8 economies, many of which are deeply reliant on global trade flows, foreign investment, and export diversification for growth.

In this context, the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement emerges as not merely a trade facilitation tool, but a strategic shield.

By deepening trade ties within our own grouping and fostering a predictable, rules-based trading system among Member States, the PTA can help cushion our economies from external shocks.

Enhanced intra-D-8 trade can serve as a stabilizing force, reduce dependency on vulnerable external markets, and build regional resilience in the face of increasingly fragmented global trade dynamics.

This is not just theory: economic history has shown that during times of global trade strain, regions with strong internal markets and preferential arrangements are better positioned to weather economic downturns.

Distinguished Delegates,

While the PTA has laid a solid groundwork, much work remains.

The global economic landscape is evolving rapidly. To remain relevant and impactful, our Agreement must evolve with it. In that regard, I wish to respectfully propose the following forward-looking measures to strengthen and modernize the PTA, drawing on successful examples from other regional trade frameworks:

First, Digitalization of Trade Procedures. The adoption of electronic customs systems and single-window platforms, such as in ASEAN’s Single Window¹, can significantly reduce transaction costs and improve transparency. The D-8 may consider launching a feasibility study to explore such digital trade facilitation tools tailored to our context.

Second, Simplification and Harmonization of Rules of Origin. Clearer and more flexible rules of origin can reduce compliance burdens and encourage greater use of preferences, especially by SMEs. Regional Economic Communities such as SADC (Southern African Development Community) have taken steps in this direction with tangible results².

Third, Establishment of a Trade Monitoring and Transparency Mechanism. A centralized, publicly accessible system for tracking tariff reductions, Member compliance, and trade performance, similar to MERCOSUR³’s Foreign Trade Statistics System (SECEM)⁴, would increase accountability and improve policy coordination.

Fourth, Institutionalizing Public–Private Dialogue under the PTA Framework: *A formal D-8 Business Council* could serve as a conduit for private sector input into trade policy decisions and help mobilize investment, identify bottlenecks, and stimulate joint ventures.

Distinguished Colleagues,

In 2023, intra-D-8 trade reached approximately USD 146 billion. In 2024, however, our intra-trade exhibited a slight decline to USD 144.

While these figures underscore the resilience of trade flows among our Member States, especially amid global economic headwinds and geopolitical uncertainties, they also point to a **critical reality**: intra-D-8 trade continues to represent only 7% of the total external trade of the D-8 Member States, a ratio that has remained unchanged since 2021. It is also still below the target set by our leaders, that the intra-D-8 trade must exceed at least 10% of the D-8 global trade value.

¹ <https://asean.org/our-communities/economic-community/asean-single-window/>

² <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311886.2024.2361530#abstract>

³ The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) is a regional integration process initially established by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, which was later joined by Venezuela and Bolivia.

⁴ <https://estadisticas.mercosur.int/>

This persistent low percentage highlights a significant opportunity, and a responsibility, to do more.

Compared to other regional blocs, such as ASEAN⁵, MERCOSUR⁶, and SADC⁷, where intra-group trade typically ranges from 15% to over 30%, and even higher in the case of the European Union⁸, the D-8's intra-trade share of 7% signals a significant underutilization of our collective potential. With a combined market of over 1.2 billion people and vast complementary economic structures, there is ample room to grow.

These numbers tell us two important things. First, that our PTA is timely and essential, not only as a symbolic commitment to regional cooperation, but as a practical tool to catalyze greater economic integration. Second, that without enhanced implementation, improved compliance, and targeted trade facilitation measures, especially for SMEs and non-traditional exporters, the full benefits of the PTA will remain unrealized.

As we look toward 2030 and beyond, this data should inspire collective ambition. With strategic reforms and stronger engagement, we can and must work together to significantly raise the share of intra-D-8 trade and unlock the economic dynamism that lies within our shared space.

It is also timely for us to embark on a more ambitious and inclusive trade instruments, such as a D-8 free trade agreement or a comprehensive economic partnership agreement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, allow me to briefly highlight that tomorrow, in conjunction with this meeting, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) will officially launch the D-8 SME Center, an initiative designed to empower small and medium enterprises across our Member States. Although the Center will be officially introduced during a dedicated session, I wish to take a brief moment to underscore its potential strategic value.

⁵ Intra-ASEAN trade share: Around 22% in 2023 ([source](#)).

⁶ Intra-MERCOSUR trade: Historically fluctuates around 15–20% ([source](#)).

⁷ Intra-SADC trade: 17% ([source](#)).

⁸ Trade among EU countries as a share of total trade in goods ranged from just over 30% for Cyprus to 81% for Czechia in 2024 ([source](#)).

SMEs form the backbone of all our economies. Yet, their participation in cross-border trade remains limited due to access barriers, regulatory complexity, and lack of financing. The SME Center will act as a catalyst to address these challenges, through capacity building, policy research, digitalization support, and trade facilitation. In the long run, it will also support the PTA by expanding the pool of enterprises capable of leveraging its provisions and ensuring that the benefits of trade liberalization are shared more broadly across all sectors of our economies.

Let us use this meeting not only to reflect on the milestones we have achieved but also to take decisive steps toward realizing the full promise of the D-8 PTA. I trust that our discussions will be candid, constructive, and focused on tangible outcomes.

Once again, I thank all of you for being here, and I extend my very best wishes for a productive and impactful meeting.

Thank you.

Opening Remarks at the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement

Abuja, Nigeria – 16 June 2025

Honorable Delegates, Esteemed Representatives, and Distinguished Guests,

First, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to **H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization**, for his tireless efforts in guiding and overseeing the affairs of the D-8, which support our collective success.

I also wish to express my deepest appreciation to **H.E. Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**, for graciously hosting this important session and for Nigeria's unwavering dedication to fostering economic cooperation within our bloc.

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I welcome you all to the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement. I recognize the significance of this gathering in advancing our shared vision of deeper economic cooperation and sustainable growth among our Member States.

Our journey in strengthening trade partnerships has been marked by continuous efforts, strategic deliberations, and collective commitment. Today, we take yet another step in refining the implementation of the D-8 PTA, addressing pending matters, expanding trade opportunities, and ensuring the effective operationalization of preferential trade arrangements.

The discussions ahead will focus on critical areas, including trade facilitation, capacity building, and the potential expansion of our agreement. Our collective expertise and commitment will be instrumental in shaping policies that maximize benefits for our economies and people.

I encourage all participants to engage in insightful, constructive dialogue that fosters inclusivity, and practical solutions. The strength of our cooperation lies in our ability to work together in good faith, ensuring that our decisions align with the long-term goals of the D-8 economic bloc.

Finally, I wish that our deliberations be fruitful and drive us toward a more integrated, dynamic, and prosperous future.

Thank you.

Speech – Head of Delegation of Bangladesh
8th Supervisory Committee Meeting of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement
Abuja, Nigeria | 16 June 2025

Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu, and a very good morning.

Let me begin by extending my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation. We are grateful for the generous arrangements and commend the excellent organization of this important meeting.

We also warmly welcome the timely launch of the D-8 SME Centre, which we believe has the potential to be a transformative platform for supporting small and medium enterprises—key engines of inclusive growth across our member states.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh remains a committed and constructive partner of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement. Our faith in this mechanism is grounded in economic logic. Allow me to share a few important reflections on where we stand, and where we must go.

It is important to recall that prior to the conclusion of the PTA in 2006, multiple feasibility assessments and trade simulations were conducted to evaluate its potential. These studies projected that, through meaningful tariff liberalization, intra-D-8 trade could increase by over 80%, even if from a low base. The modeling showed that under a scenario of full tariff elimination, the share of intra-D-8 trade in the bloc's total trade could rise to 6.7%.

These estimates, though promising, also highlighted the challenges ahead—especially the structural asymmetries and weak complementarities among our economies.

Excellencies,

As of today, intra-D-8 trade has grown from approximately 14 billion US dollars in 1997 to about 129 billion dollars in 2022. However, this still accounts for only around 4.5 to 6.5 percent of our total trade. When compared to regional blocs such as ASEAN or the European Union, where intra-bloc trade exceeds 25% or even 50%, our performance remains modest.

More concerning is the concentration of this trade: the majority occurs among a few bilateral pairs. For many of us, including Bangladesh, intra-D-8 trade volumes remain limited. This suggests that while the PTA exists on paper, its potential remains far from fully realized.

Excellencies,

Why is the PTA underperforming?

There are several reasons:

First, the pace of **implementation has been slow and uneven**. Though the Agreement entered into force in 2012, several members—including Bangladesh—faced procedural and technical challenges that delayed full implementation.

Second, the current **tariff reduction modality** under the PTA offers a **minimum reduction of 10%**, with no clear trajectory toward zero. While this offers symbolic progress, it does **not present a compelling business case for our traders**. Most businesses are unlikely to redirect their supply chains for marginal tariff savings. This is, in fact, **one of the key reasons why the D-8 PTA remains underutilised by the private sector**.

Third, the **scope and content of the offer lists remain narrow and commercially insignificant**. Products offered often do not match existing or potential trade flows. Furthermore, the rules of origin, including the 40% value-addition requirement, create a particularly high barrier for least developed contracting parties.

Fourth, **non-tariff barriers and cumbersome customs practices**—including high valuation rates—discourage private sector participation. In some cases, customs valuation can reach as high as 40%, rendering many products uncompetitive.

Fifth, **capacity constraints** continue to limit the effectiveness of national trade institutions. Bangladesh was the first country to submit a detailed capacity-building needs assessment. However, we regret to note that we have yet to receive any concrete training support. We strongly urge the Secretariat and development partners to operationalize capacity-building activities without further delay.

Excellencies,

To unlock the full potential of the D-8 PTA, we would like to propose the following concrete actions:

1. We would like to strongly propose that the D-8 countries begin a structured dialogue toward a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** framework, where **tariff elimination, not just reduction, is the end goal**. This will send a clear signal to our private sectors and global partners that D-8 is serious about fostering a unified trade space.
2. **All contracting parties should urgently update their offer lists**, aligning them with the Harmonized System (HS) 2022 version. These lists must include commercially meaningful products to truly benefit our exporters and importers.
3. We urge the Supervisory Committee to **review and streamline rules of origin**, particularly for LDCs. Flexibility in value-addition thresholds will enable countries like Bangladesh to participate more effectively.
4. The Secretariat should initiate **targeted technical training programs** based on the needs assessments already submitted. Building our institutional and negotiating capacity is essential for meaningful engagement.
5. We call for enhanced cooperation in **facilitating trade in halal goods and services**. The global halal market is expanding rapidly and represents a strategic opportunity that aligns with the socio-economic realities of our member states.

6. Finally, we reiterate our proposal to **organize 1st D-8 Youth Multi-stakeholder Meeting in Dhaka**, as announced by our Honourable Chief Adviser during the 11th D-8 Summit in Cairo. Our youth are the future drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional cooperation.
-

Excellencies,

The D-8 PTA holds great promise. But to deliver on that promise, we must move from aspiration to action.

Bangladesh reaffirms its strong commitment to this collective agenda. Let us strengthen this partnership through deeper integration, timely reforms, and a shared resolve to achieve our 2030 target of 500 billion US dollars in intra-D-8 trade.

Let us do so with mutual trust, responsibility, and solidarity.

Thank you once again to the Government of Nigeria for your gracious hosting and enduring leadership.

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah.



**Indonesia's Statement in the Occasion of
The 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee (SC) of the
D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA)**

Abuja, 16 June 2025

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. May peace be upon us all.

H.E. Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation;

Distinguished delegates of the D-8 Member States;

Good morning,

- 1) *First, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to all delegations. I also thank the D-8 Secretariat for its continued commitment in guiding our collective efforts to deepen intra-D-8 trade.*
- 2) *It is both an honor and a pleasure to visit Abuja—a city of historical and cultural significance—where we convene to reaffirm our shared commitment to the full and effective implementation of the D-8 PTA and to advance our vision for a broader, more impactful economic partnership.*

Distinguished Delegates,

- 3) *Let me begin by noting the findings of the IMF's World Economic Outlook (April 2025), which project global economic growth to remain subdued at 2.8% in 2025 and 3.0% in 2026. These forecasts are shaped by persistent uncertainty, rising protectionism, and prolonged geopolitical tensions.*
- 4) *In such a context, Indonesia sees regional and interregional economic cooperation—such as the D-8 PTA—as a vital instrument to revitalize trade, reinforce supply chains, and promote inclusive economic growth.*
- 5) *Indonesia recognizes the D-8 as a strategic bloc of developing economies, with immense collective potential and shared aspirations. The 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee is thus not merely a procedural engagement, but a critical platform to reaffirm our commitment and take concrete steps forward.*

Distinguished Delegates,

- 6) *We welcome Pakistan as the newest country to implement the D-8 PTA as of 1 January 2025. Indonesia encourages all remaining Member States to accelerate the internalization and implementation of the agreement to realize our shared goals.*

- 7) *As for Indonesia, the D-8 PTA entered into force on June 1st, 2024. Since then, up to May 2025, Indonesia have issued 329 Certificates of Origin (COO), representing exports valued at USD 19.4 million, with Bangladesh, Iran, Türkiye, and Malaysia as the main destinations. On the import side, utilization of the D-8 PTA remains negligible as of February 2025.*
- 8) *We believe that, in order to ensure a more accurate and comprehensive assessment of the actual utilization of the D-8 PTA, it would be prudent to cross-verify the available data with corresponding trade statistics provided by fellow D-8 member states.*
- 9) *Indonesia is confident in the long-term potential of the D-8 PTA. We believe it can serve as a catalyst for trade expansion and economic resilience across Member States. We remain committed to contributing toward our collective target of USD 500 billion in intra-D-8 trade by 2030, as set forth in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020–2030.*
- 10) *To meet that target, 2025 must be a year of action. Indonesia reaffirms its support for the expansion of D-8 PTA cooperation through advancing toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), as previously proposed during the Informal Trade Ministers' Meeting in Istanbul in June 2024 and reiterated at the D-8 Summit in Cairo on 19 December 2024.*
- 11) *Such a transformation will allow us to address contemporary trade priorities, including trade in services, investment, the digital economy, halal value chains, and sustainable development. A CEPA will also enable us to adopt more ambitious and mutually beneficial commitments to foster dynamic economic integration.*
- 12) *Additionally, Indonesia supports the expansion and modernization of the D-8 PTA offer list. The current list is too limited to support meaningful trade growth. It is imperative that we go beyond low-sensitivity goods and work toward tariff liberalization that truly reflects business needs and market potential.*
- 13) *We urge all Member States to engage constructively and proactively in this endeavor—demonstrating the willingness to move beyond our comfort zones to fully realize the potential of the PTA.*

Distinguished Delegates,

- 14) *Indonesia stands ready to collaborate strategically and substantively with all Member States. We are committed to ensuring that the D-8 remains a relevant and responsive platform that delivers real benefits to our economies and our people. Let us work hand in hand to transform the D-8 into a beacon of economic hope for the Global South and a champion for the aspirations of the Muslim ummah.*

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Note: Please check against delivery

**MALAYSIA'S STATEMENT
8th SESSION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE
D-8 PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT**

ABUJA, NIGERIA, 16 JUNE 2025

His Excellency Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi

*Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Chair of the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA*

His Excellency Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam

Secretary General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to everyone. It is both an honour and a privilege to represent Malaysia at this esteemed gathering. I am Aiyub bin Omar, High Commissioner of Malaysia to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Head of the Malaysian Delegation to the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA).

At the outset, allow me to convey Malaysia's deepest appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the D-8 Secretariat for their gracious hospitality and for convening this important Session. This meeting is particularly meaningful, taking place at the heels of the D-8's 28th anniversary on 15 June, an opportune moment to reflect on the journey we have undertaken and to recommit ourselves to the vision of economic cooperation and shared prosperity.

Today's session serves as an important platform to assess the implementation progress of the D-8 PTA since the 7th Session of the SC, held on 4 March 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is also

an opportunity to address pending issues, exchange best practices, and strengthen the operationalisation of this landmark Agreement. Malaysia commends the diligence and dedication of our technical experts and senior officials who have worked tirelessly to drive this process forward.

Malaysia recognises the broader significance of our deliberations, not just in ensuring the smooth implementation of the D-8 PTA, but also in charting a path toward its future expansion following the Agreement's full implementation. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes discussions on 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, while also addressing the need to enhance the capacity of the officials involved in the implementation of D-8 PTA.

Excellency, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception in 1997, the D-8 has fostered economic prosperity among its Member States, establishing itself as a valuable platform for collaboration on issues of mutual interest, and delivered tangible benefits for our people. Malaysia is proud to be a part of this collective journey, and firmly believes in its potential. Malaysia looks forward to greater D-8 trade cooperation under Egypt's chairmanship, and in this spirit, Malaysia warmly welcomes the participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this meeting. Azerbaijan's involvement represents a significant opportunity to deepen economic ties and unlock new avenues for collaboration.

In 2024, the D-8 stands as the world's third-largest economic bloc, with a combined GDP of approximately USD5.1 trillion, accounting for more than five per cent of global GDP. Notably, our Member States collectively contribute 55% of the OIC's total GDP. D-8's combined market of over 1.28 billion people provides complementarities and shared interests, many of which hold great potential for successful collaborations, particularly in areas related to trade and economy. According to projections by

PricewaterhouseCoopers, D-8 Member States are expected to rank among the world's top 25 economies by 2050.

In order to rapidly realise the true potential that our block possesses, the implementation of the D-8 PTA is of paramount importance, owing to its critical role as a catalyst in intensifying intra-D-8 trade. In the face of the changing dynamics of global trade and current global economic uncertainties, the D-8 PTA will serve as a solid foundation for strengthening trade links and cooperation among our Member States, while generating significant economic benefits.

Excellency, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia commends D-8 Member States' unrelenting collective efforts in completing their respective domestic procedures for the full operationalisation of the D-8 PTA, as well as increasing intra-D-8 trade from USD136 billion in 2021 to USD145 billion in 2023. Malaysia's trade with D-8 Member States grew by 9.4% in 2024, amounting to USD38.49 billion. Exports rose by 11.4% to USD22.10 billion, while imports increased by 6.9% to USD16.38 billion. Since operationalising the D-8 PTA on 1 October 2023, Malaysia has already begun to see early gains and eagerly anticipates Egypt's ratification, which will further strengthen trade ties across key D-8 markets.

Malaysia remains steadfast in its support towards D-8 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.

To unlock the bloc's full potential, Malaysia supports upgrading the D-8 PTA to a more comprehensive framework, such as the D-8 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (D-8 CEPA), after the D-8 PTA is fully implemented. Such a framework would allow us to go beyond goods and cover services, investments, and other emerging sectors, ensuring the

D-8 remains globally competitive and strategically positioned for the future. Together, through collaboration and continued commitment, let us turn the D-8's immense potential into a reality, ushering in a new era in our economic relations and expanding our current cooperation.

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 Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting.

Thank you.

**STATEMENTS BY MR. TUKUR RILWAN MUHAMMED,
REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA ON THE 8TH SESSION OF THE
SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE D-8 PREFERENTIAL TRADE
AGREEMENT (8TH SC PTA) ABUJA, NIGERIA, 16TH JUNE, 2025**

Your Excellences,

Representatives of Member States,

Officials of the D-8 Secretariat,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. It is with great pleasure and honour that I welcome you all to Abuja, the vibrant capital city of Nigeria hosting the 8th Supervisory Committee Meeting of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. On behalf of the government and people of Nigeria, I extend warm greetings to you all and express our gratitude for your presence here today. I also wish to especially recognize the D-8 Secretary-General who is a proud son of Nigeria and the Secretariat for their unwavering commitment to advancing the objectives of this esteemed organization.

3. Distinguished delegates, it is important to state that since the inception of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, the organization has demonstrated the power of collaboration in fostering sustainable economic growth among member states. The D-8's primary objectives of improving member states' positions in the global economy, diversifying and creating new opportunities in trade relations, and enhancing standards of living are as relevant today as they were at its inception.

4. Therefore, the Supervisory Committee, which has brought us all together today, plays a pivotal role in the realization of these overarching objectives. We are tasked with reviewing progress across various areas of cooperation, identifying bottlenecks, and providing strategic guidance. In essence, we are the vital engine that drives the D-8's ambitious agenda, ensuring that our collective aspirations are not merely abstract concepts but are meticulously translated into tangible, impactful actions on the ground.

5. Distinguished delegates, Nigeria as a member of the D-8 and a signatory to the organizations Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), a particular critical area of focus for Nigeria, and indeed for all D-8 member states is the full and effective implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). We clearly recognize that the PTA is the indispensable cornerstone to significantly improve intra-D-8 trade volumes through progressively lowering the tariffs between our nations. Nigeria is firmly committed to completing all its obligations under the PTA to ensure its complete operationalization. We hold a strong conviction that a fully functional and robust PTA will unlock immense, untapped trade potential, create unprecedented new opportunities for our businesses and entrepreneurs, and foster even greater economic integration and resilience within our esteemed bloc.

6. Furthermore, you may also wish to note that, in the face of globalisation and technological advancement, trade in service is identified as engine for economic growth and development, particularly in the area of information and communications, financial technology as well as logistics. In this regards, there is need for D-8 member states to consider

trade in service as integral part of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). This will serve as catalyst for boosting intra-D8 trade/GDP and by extension member states share of trade at the global stage. Another important aspect in the implementation and operationalization of the PTA is capacity building, in this regards, prioritising capacity building and technical support cannot be over emphasise for the success of D-8 PTA. I hope this session provides a unique platform for discussions on this very critical issues.

7. Distinguished delegates, let me conclude by reaffirming Nigeria's unwavering commitment to the ideals of the D-8 Organization and the PTA. We remain dedicated to strengthening trade and investment relationships with all member states, deepening partnerships that will yield sustainable economic benefits.

8. On this note I thank you for your kind attention and I look forward to meaningful discussions and recommendations that will drive our shared vision forward.

Thank you.

**Excellency Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to represent Pakistan in the 8th meeting of D-8 Supervisory Committee. At the outset, I wish to bring on record our appreciations to the Government of Nigeria for hosting this important meeting; 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-eight 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 modest goal could not be achieved in as many as 27 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. We ae pleased to state that Pakistan has operationalized D-8 PTA and is very committed to its implementation. We hope all the D-8 members would implement the PTA in letter and spirit as soon as possible. On the possibility of expanding D-8 PTA, we reiterate that before broadening the scope of the PTA, the agreement must be implemented first by all member states and the expansion should be done on "Request-Offer" approach

We are also pleased to stated that the Government of Pakistan has approved the protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism and Pakistan is likely to sign in the next meeting of Trade Ministers Council. We believe the action plan of the Paper on D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy

(TFS) , needs to be undertaken effectively and this strategy aims to promote intra D-8 trade through facilitating trade and customs procedures of the D-8 Member States. 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 8th meeting of the Supervisory Committee, D-8 PTA. I thank you.

Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Türkiye

Dear Excellency, Secretary General,
Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,
Good morning,

It is a great pleasure for me to meet you all on the occasion of the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the esteemed authorities of Nigeria 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. Subsequently in March 2024 we held the 7th Meeting of the D-8 Supervisory Council in Bangladesh on the margin of the 3rd Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council. Also, in June 2024 we convened an informal meeting of D-8 Trade Ministers, where with high-level participation we took important decisions.

Distinguished Delegates,

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 has significant impacts on our economies. Today also, multiple crises co-exist and continue to threat our economies and societies. It is more imperative than ever to stick to spirit of cooperation among our countries in these trying times where-in we also live through shifts in political and economic landscape. In order to better position 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. With their dynamic labor force, rich mineral, energy and agricultural resources, promising tourism capacities and competitive operational costs, D-8 countries should work harder and closer towards playing an effective role in the global economy commensurate 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, holds the key. Once we implement the Agreement fully, current level of intra- trade which stands around 150 Billion USD is expected to go up to 500 Billion USD.

Besides as mandated by our ministers both in Dhaka and Istanbul we must expedite our efforts to complete studies that would guide us to expand D-8 Trade Agreement in terms of both product coverage and the disciplines involved.

I am confident that our gathering here in Abuja, on the occasion of the 8th Session of the D-8 Supervisory Committee will set a benchmark in achieving our goals in trade area. I have no doubt that we will be acting in full professionalism and understanding that we have the responsibility on our shoulders to carry forward this cooperation platform with what we can and should do by today.

Concluding my remarks, I once again thank Nigeria for hosting this meeting and thank all the distinguished participants for their active and constructive engagements through our meeting.

Table 1: Checklist for Implementation Status of the Contracting Members
(Updated on 31 May 2025)

No	Checklist item	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Egypt	Indonesia	Iran	Malaysia	Nigeria	Pakistan	Türkiye
1	Gazette notification for implementation of the PTA	Yet to ratify the Agreement	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	The necessary internal procedure is pending.	Gazette Notification on 27 December 2024	Gazette notification in April 2011
2	Specimen of D-8 Certificate of Origin	Not yet submitted	Submitted	Not yet.	Submitted	Submitted (E-CoO)	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted (E-CoO)
3	Specimen of Signatures and Customs Stamps	Not yet submitted	Submitted	Submitted (cannot be used until ratification)	Submitted	Submitted (Online Verification)	Submitted	Submitted (Need to be updated).	Submitted	Submitted (Online verification)
4	Designated Contact Office/Focal Points	Not yet submitted	Submitted	Not yet.	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted	Not yet.	Submitted	Submitted