

Draft Meeting Report

Coordination Meeting on the Establishment of the D-8 Energy and Climate Center (D-8 ECC)

Date: 14 August 2025

Time: 13:00 (Baku time, GMT+4)

Venue: Virtual (hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan)

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A. Background

1. As the newest Member State of the D-8 Organization, the Republic of Azerbaijan has advanced a proposal for the establishment of three affiliated Centers. One of the three centers is the D-8 Energy and Climate Center (D-8 ECC). In furtherance of this initiative, Azerbaijan formally introduced the proposal during the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission, convened in May 2025 in Istanbul. A concept note for the D-8 ECC was also circulated to the D-8 Member States accordingly.
2. The D-8 Commission agreed “to further develop the proposed Concept Notes for the D-8 Energy and Climate Action Center, the D-8 Media Excellence Center, and the D-8 Transport Center of Excellence, as affiliated bodies proposed by Azerbaijan, through an inclusive process involving the respective national focal points of D-8 Member States.”
3. To implement the Commission’s decision, a working group comprised of focal points from the D-8 Member States was formed, under the facilitation of the D-8 Secretariat. With the exception of Iran and Nigeria, all Member States had completed their nominations. This process enabled the Secretariat, in close cooperation with Azerbaijan, to convene the inaugural coordination meeting of focal points to deliberate on the establishment of D-8 ECC.
4. The first coordination meeting was held virtually on **14 August 2025** and witnessed the full participation of Member States, including representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Iran and Nigeria. The list of Meeting’s participants is enclosed.

B. Opening Remarks

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Punjul Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations (Director-II) of the D-8 Secretariat. Following his introductory remarks, Mr. Nugraha invited H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadov, D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan and Head of the Economic Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, to assume the chairmanship of the meeting.
6. In his opening address, the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan welcomed all national representatives and participants, conveying his sincere appreciation for their presence and commitment to the proceedings. The Commissioner then provided background on the initiative, recalling the discussions held during the D-8 Secretary-General’s visit to Azerbaijan in March 2025, where H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, expressed his country keenness to host the D-8 ECC. In that context, it was noted that Azerbaijan’s experience in hosting COP29 could be leveraged to benefit the Organization, particularly in the fields of renewable and clean energy.
7. The Commissioner also emphasized that the proposed Center aims to address challenges in renewable and green energy while fostering cooperation in traditional energy sectors, including fossil fuels, ensuring that climate action supports sustainable economic development.

8. The Commissioner highlighted Azerbaijan’s commitment to an inclusive approach, inviting Member States to actively participate in the discussions. He further observed that the Concept Note was drafted in accordance with the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020–2030 and the principles of the Cairo Declaration (11th D-8 Summit, December 2024), which underscore the importance of energy sustainability and addressing climate change challenges that impact the economic growth and development of Member States.

C. Secretariat Remarks on Procedural Matters

9. Before opening the floor for participants’ comments, Director-II acknowledged the key points presented by the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan and reiterated the Secretariat’s readiness to facilitate the development of the Center through discussions and revisions of the Concept Note. He highlighted that once finalized, the Concept Note would serve as the foundational guiding document for the Center. He further noted that additional decisions would be required regarding:
 - Organizational structure of the Center;
 - Financing mechanisms;
 - Staffing arrangements;
 - Partnerships with third parties; and
 - Decision-making processes.
10. Director-II, while expressing appreciation to Azerbaijan for providing the institutional infrastructure, office space, and staffing to support the Center’s initial operations, noted that for the Center to be of maximum benefit to Member States, it is essential for Member States to actively contribute to and participate in its operations, whether by proposing cooperative initiatives within the framework of the Center, providing technical staff, or extending financial support.
11. Director-II further outlined the next procedural steps:
 - Following the collection of all comments and inputs from Member States, a revised concept note will be prepared within approximately two weeks (or earlier);
 - The revised draft will then be circulated for endorsement by Member States;
 - If endorsed, the Government of Azerbaijan will proceed with the establishment of the Center;
 - A “silent procedure” will be applied, meaning that if no comments or objections are received by the deadline set by the Secretariat in coordination with Azerbaijan, the concept note will be deemed approved and adopted as the basic document for the establishment of the Center.

D. Interventions by Member States¹

12. Having cleared the procedural matters, the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan reiterated the importance of an inclusive approach in establishing the Center, ensuring the active participation of all relevant authorities from Member States. He formally opened the floor for participants' views and encouraged delegates to also submit their input in writing to facilitate the incorporation of their feedback into the draft concept note:

The People's Republic of Bangladesh

13. **Mr. Mohammad Navid Safiullah**, Additional Secretary, Climate Change Wing, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, expressed appreciation for Azerbaijan's initiative and the Secretariat's coordination. **He highlighted Bangladesh's interest in cooperation on adaptation, resilience, capacity building, technology sharing and climate financing.** He closed his remarks by emphasizing the importance of fostering **collaboration between the public and private sectors** to advance the objectives of the proposed Center.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

14. **Ms. Rukayya Muhammad** of the National Council on Climate Change of the Federal Republic of Nigeria informed the meeting that she was attending on behalf of the Council, as Nigeria had not yet designated a focal point for the Center. She explained that this was due to a recent change in the Council's leadership.
15. Ms. Muhammad noted that, for the present meeting, she would take note of all discussions and expressed the hope that Nigeria's designated focal point would be appointed by the next meeting. She requested the Secretariat to share the draft Concept Note directly with the Council through her, so that it could be reviewed and inputs provided. Ms. Muhammad also conveyed Nigeria's view that the proposed Center represents a timely and valuable initiative.

The Republic of Indonesia

16. **Ms. Rachmadea Aisyah**, Desk Officer for D-8 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, opened by expressing appreciation to Azerbaijan for the proposal and to the Secretariat for facilitating the establishment of the Center. She conveyed Indonesia's support for this forward-looking initiative, **emphasizing that energy and climate change directly affect the economic development** of Member States, an area central to the Organization's mandate.

¹ Interventions are recorded in the sequence of delivery as they occurred during the meeting, and not arranged alphabetically.

17. Ms. Aisyah confirmed that Indonesia stands ready to cooperate with fellow Member States and the Secretariat in the establishment of the Center. Concerning the Concept Note, she proposed that the objectives of the Center should:
- Be aligned with and centered around the priority areas of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020–2030);
 - Reflect the core objectives of the Organization; and
 - While prioritizing the above, take into consideration other multilateral initiatives, including COP29 hosted by Azerbaijan.
18. She further suggested that **existing or planned D-8 cooperation frameworks, such as collaboration in the Blue Economy, could be leveraged to enrich the Concept Note, and requested additional details regarding the Center’s financing arrangements and decision-making processes.**

The Islamic Republic of Iran

19. **Ms. Yasaman Yeganeh**, from the D-8 Commissioner’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, participated on behalf of Iran’s to-be-designated focal point. She requested detailed information on long-term financing arrangements to ensure the Center’s sustainability beyond the initial phase.
20. In response, the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan elaborated on the topic of financing arrangements, dividing the matter into two components:
- Operational costs of running the Center; and
 - Project financing for activities and initiatives under the Center’s mandate.
21. He noted that Azerbaijan is currently engaged in internal discussions with relevant stakeholders on financing matters. Mr. Mammadov recalled his bilateral and multilateral talks with fellow Commissioners during the 49th Session of the D-8 Commission, which highlighted that financing of Affiliated Bodies has become a serious concern for the Organization. Due to inadequate funding, some existing Affiliated Bodies have faced operational and activity-related challenges.
22. Recognizing the importance of sustainable financing for the operationalization of the proposed Center, he assured participants that Azerbaijan has taken note of this concern. He confirmed that the revised concept note will address all key issues raised, particularly financing arrangements, along with decision-making processes, organizational structure, and other essential elements for the Center’s establishment and functioning.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

23. **Mr. Muhammad Arif Goheer**, Executive Director of the Global Climate Change Impact Studies Center, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, took the floor. He began by expressing appreciation to the

D-8 Secretariat and fellow Member States for laying the groundwork for this important initiative. Mr. Goheer underscored the interconnection between energy security, addressing climate change challenges, and achieving sustainable economic development.

24. He further emphasized the importance of access to affordable energy and the need to enhance economic resilience. While welcoming the establishment of the Center, he highlighted Pakistan's readiness and commitment to contribute to its success, particularly by **providing expertise in areas aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change**. Mr. Goheer concluded his remarks by reiterating that **a long-term vision should remain central to this initiative**.

The Republic of Türkiye

25. **Ms. Halime Semerci Kuşçu**, Head of Department at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye, also took the floor. She commended the efforts of her colleagues from Azerbaijan in initiating the establishment of the Center and confirmed Türkiye's willingness to actively contribute to the process.
26. Ms. Kuşçu further identified several **priority areas for cooperation in the energy sector**, including **energy transition, renewable energy, energy efficiency, infrastructure development, and new technologies and innovations**. She suggested that these topics could serve as the basis for **jointly defined projects** among Member States. She informed the meeting that Türkiye would submit these proposals, along with other inputs, in writing for incorporation into the draft Concept Note.

The Arab Republic of Egypt

27. **Ms. Rehab Beder Hassan**, Director of the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Unit at the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, took the floor. She emphasized **the importance of energy security, climate action, energy efficiency, and climate resilience strategies**.
28. She highlighted that the **sharing of knowledge and experience** among Member States could yield mutual benefits, noting that these priorities are consistent with Egypt's national strategy on energy efficiency. Ms. Hassan further confirmed Egypt's willingness to cooperate with other Member States in these areas. **She requested further details regarding the modalities for financing and the implementation of potential projects, including the process for defining bilateral or multilateral initiatives under the framework of the Center**. She suggested that such projects could focus on capacity building and technology exchange.
29. In response to these inquiries, the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan reiterated that financing matters would be addressed in the revised Concept Note. He shared his perspective, noting that funding could potentially be secured through voluntary contributions from Member States, external third parties, multilateral development banks, and international donors. Drawing on Azerbaijan's experience hosting COP29, he emphasized that the networks and relationships established through that event could be

leveraged to support D-8 Member States in addressing climate change challenges and enhancing energy security within the framework of the Center.

30. The Commissioner concluded by reaffirming that initial financing could be facilitated through voluntary contributions from Member States, support from multilateral development banks, and engagement with relevant donors.

Malaysia

31. **Mr. Kamarul Asyraf Kamarulzaman** from the OIC and Regional Cooperation Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, took the floor. He began by expressing appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat and the Republic of Azerbaijan for facilitating this coordination meeting on the establishment of the D-8 Energy and Climate Center. He noted that Malaysia aligns with the views expressed by Indonesia regarding the need for further clarification and additional details in the Concept Note. In this context, Malaysia expressed the hope that **the revised Concept Note would comprehensively address the financing structure and operational framework of the Center.**
32. Mr. Kamarulzaman **further requested clarification from the Secretariat on whether Member States would be required to submit annual reports on activities related to the Center,** and if so, the mechanism and structure through which such reports should be submitted.
33. In response, the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan indicated that a more detailed Concept Note will be available soon. He explained that once all Member States provide their inputs and comments, Azerbaijan will incorporate them into the document, further develop it, and share the updated version with Member States. He also informed the meeting that Azerbaijan aims to operationalize the Center by the end of the year and intends to organize several relevant events in the interim. He added that the revised Concept Note will be submitted within one week following the meeting, through the Secretariat, for the Member States' further review and comments.

E. Summary and Conclusion

34. Director-II noted that, within one week, and subject to all Member States submitting their inputs in writing to both the Secretariat and Azerbaijan, the revised Concept Note would be circulated to Member States for their final comments and approval. He reiterated support for the financing approaches suggested by the D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan, including securing funding from external institutions such as multilateral development banks and other international organizations.
35. He further informed the meeting that the Secretariat is in the process of identifying relevant projects, citing, as an example, a UNIDO initiative launched in April 2025 called the "Islamic and Arab Finance for Economic Transformation in Affrica, the Arab Region and

Beyond” (IFETAA), aimed at compiling funding support from Islamic banking institutions in Arab and African countries. He emphasized that the core activity of D-8 ECC should be the identification and formulation of potential projects, in coordination with Member States, to enable their presentation to prospective donors. Drawing on the Secretariat’s experience, he noted that projects involving at least two or three Member States are more likely to secure financing, highlighting the Center’s critical role in facilitating joint, multilateral initiatives among D-8 Member States.

36. Director-II also underscored the importance of developing an annual Action Plan for the Center once established, outlining planned activities and a clear implementation timeline. To expedite progress, and with the approval of Azerbaijan, the Secretariat proposed establishing a Working Group comprising designated national focal points to advance discussions through future virtual meetings.
37. In closing, Director-II assured Member States that the Secretariat remains fully available to facilitate further discussions on the establishment of the Center and will report progress regularly through the focal points. He announced that the next coordination meeting will be convened following the circulation of the revised Concept Note, with its primary agenda focused on discussing the modalities of the Working Group.
38. The D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan, as the Chair of the meeting, thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

D-8 Secretariat, 18 August 2025

F. List of Participants

#	Country	Name	Designation	Ministry
1.	Azerbaijan	H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadov (Chair of the meeting)	D-8 Commissioner of Azerbaijan Head of the Economic Cooperation Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2.		Ms. Nuray Akhundzada	Focal point for D-8	
3.		Ms. Lala Hikmat	Climate Diplomacy Department	
4.		Mr. Zaur Gadimaliyev	-	
5.		Mr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev	Head of International Cooperation Department	Ministry of Energy
6.		Ms. Rakif Qafarov	Head of division	State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR)
7.		Mr. Sidqi Alizada	-	-
8.		Mr. Kenan Ağazade	-	-
9.		Mr. Mahmud Mahmudov	-	-
10.	Bangladesh	Mr. Mohammad Navid Safiullah	Additional Secretary of the Climate Change Wing	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
11.		Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain	Joint Secretary of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division	Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources
12.	Egypt	Ms. Rehab Beder Hassan	Director of the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Unit	Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy
13.	Indonesia	Ms. Rachmadea Aisyah	Desk Officer, D-8 Desk	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14.		Mr. Maulana Iberahim	-	-
15.	Iran	Ms. Yasaman Yeganeh	Focal point for D-8, D-8 Commissioner's Office	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
16.	Malaysia	Ms. Qairunnisa binti MD. Alias	Principal Assistant Secretary of the OIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#	Country	Name	Designation	Ministry
			and Regional Cooperation Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs	
17.		Mr. Kamarul Asyraf Kamarulzaman	-	
18.	Nigeria	Ms. Rukayya Muhammad	-	National Council on Climate Change
19.		Ms. Anna Oladimeji Ibikunle	Counselor, D-8 Desk Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
20.		Ms. Zainab Zakari Awami	Minister Counselor	
21.	Pakistan	Mr. Muhammad Arif Goheer	Executive Director of the Global Climate-Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC)	Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
22.	Türkiye	Ms. Halime Semerci Kuşçu	Head of Department	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
23.		Ms. Başak Öner Kutgün	EU Specialist	
24.		Mr. Erdiñç Erkan Başbolat	-	Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change
25.	D-8 Secretariat	Mr. Punjul Nugraha,	Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations	-
26.		Ms. Zahra Setareh	Executive Assistant	-
27.		Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin	ICT Assistant	-