

Draft Report on the Virtual Meeting for the Proposed D-8 Transport Excellence Center
(D-8 TEC) in Azerbaijan

Date: 15 August 2025

1. Introduction

On 15 August 2025, a virtual meeting was jointly organized by the Republic of Azerbaijan and the D-8 Secretariat to discuss the proposed D-8 Affiliate Body, the D-8 Transport Excellence Center (D-8 TEC), to be based in Azerbaijan. All member states participated in the meeting; the list of participants is attached as Annex-I

The meeting was inaugurated by Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director-I of the D-8 Secretariat, who provided a detailed background of the initiative. He highlighted the anticipated benefits, including the development of a joint transportation mechanism, facilitation of intra-D-8 trade, enhancement of cargo operations, collaborative road and rail projects, marine and shipping cooperation, and improved air connectivity. These measures are expected to promote both people-to-people and business-to-business contacts among member states.

The D-8 TEC is envisioned to:

- Develop a joint transportation mechanism among member states
- Facilitate intra-D-8 trade and cargo operations
- Promote collaborative road, rail, marine, and aviation projects
- Enhance people-to-people and business-to-business connectivity

2. Historical Background

The proposal was initially discussed during the official visit of the D-8 Secretary General to Azerbaijan from 4 to 8 March 2025, including meeting with H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Subsequently, Azerbaijan submitted a concept note for the proposed center, leading to the convening of today's first focal persons' meeting. Representatives from all member states attended and unanimously expressed support for establishing the D-8 TEC in Azerbaijan.

3. Presentation by Azerbaijan

Mr. Elmar Mammadov, the D-8 Commissioner for Azerbaijan, provided an overview of the initiative, highlighting Azerbaijan's commitment as a new member state to work collaboratively with all members. He outlined the center's operational modalities, management structure, and planned activities, including capacity-building programs, workshops on transport management, and joint projects in shipping, road, rail, and aviation sectors. He emphasized that the center would be inclusive, aiming to increase intra-D-8 trade through improved connectivity.

- The center will focus on:
 - Capacity building and workshops on transport management
 - Joint projects in shipping, road, rail, and aviation sectors
 - Digital solutions including cargo tracking, data management, and digitalized operations
- The initiative aims to enhance intra-D-8 trade through improved transport connectivity.

4. Observations and Recommendations from Member States

Bangladesh fully supported the establishment of the D-8 TEC in Azerbaijan and highlighted the importance of equitable development, integration with existing transport policies, and promotion of multi-modal transport. Bangladesh encouraged alignment with the D-8 Decennial Roadmap and the Cairo Declaration 2024, emphasizing digital solutions, capacity-building, sustainable road and rail infrastructure, and enhanced air connectivity.

Egypt commended Azerbaijan for introducing the initiative and expressed strong support for the establishment of the D-8 TEC. He emphasized that the center should focus on developing digital applications for transportation, which are essential in the modern era, including digital cargo handling, tracking systems, data management, and other technology-driven solutions to enhance efficiency and transparency.

Indonesia welcomed the initiative, noting its alignment with the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030. Indonesia requested detailed information regarding the funding, management, and decision-making structure of the center, and encouraged voluntary participation by all member states to ensure inclusivity and equitable benefits.

Malaysia conveyed its views to the Secretariat through an official email as follows:

Malaysia expresses its highest appreciation to the Republic of Azerbaijan for the proposal to establish the D-8 Transport Excellence Center. Malaysia offers its support for this initiative, which represents an important step towards enhancing cooperation in the respective fields among D-8 member states.

Malaysia is of the view that a clear implementation and sustainability plan is necessary to ensure the long-term success of the Center. In this regard, Malaysia seeks further details on the proposed governance structure and the financial framework to support their effective operations. Such a framework will be essential to guarantee equitable participation of all member states in decision-making and to secure the Center's sustainability.

Furthermore, Malaysia emphasizes that the Center must have well-defined mechanisms tailored to their respective areas, for instance, fostering innovation and professionalism in promoting safety, efficiency, and innovation in transport.

Malaysia is confident that with a solid and detailed plan, collective cooperation can be strengthened. Malaysia remains committed to collaborating actively in this consultation process to ensure the successful realization of the proposed Center.

Nigeria expressed strong support, appreciating Azerbaijan and the D-8 Secretariat for the proposal. Nigeria offered to send teams to learn from Azerbaijan's transport mechanisms and encouraged other member states to visit and observe the capacity-building opportunities. Nigeria highlighted that the center's transport systems would aim to provide seamless connectivity, including road, rail, and marine-based mechanisms, while promoting road safety.

Pakistan fully endorsed the initiative and welcomed the establishment of the D-8 TEC in Azerbaijan. The representative commended Azerbaijan for proposing activities such as intelligent transport systems, digital corridors, and sustainable infrastructure. He further suggested that the initiative should also incorporate environmental considerations and road safety measures as key areas of focus. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of Azerbaijan sharing the operational framework and modalities of the proposed center with all member states to ensure transparency and collective understanding.

5. Conclusion

Azerbaijan expressed gratitude for the positive feedback and unanimous support received from all member states. It was agreed that the comments and recommendations shared during the meeting would be incorporated into an updated draft concept note, which will be circulated to all member states promptly.

The meeting was formally concluded by Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, who appreciated the contributions of all participants and emphasized the commitment of the Republic of Azerbaijan to share the revised concept note at the earliest opportunity.

The D-8 TEC is expected to become a pivotal hub for regional transport collaboration, knowledge sharing, and sustainable development, strengthening intra-D-8 trade and connectivity in the years to come.