

Report of the
Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (4th D-8 TMC)
Hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Cairo, 2 December 2025

The Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC) was convened in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 2 December 2025. The Meeting was attended by Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex I**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by the Chair

H.E. Engr. Hassan Elkhatab, Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, opened the Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council and extended a warm welcome to all delegations gathered in Cairo.

In his opening remarks, the Chair emphasized the significant economic promise of the D-8 member states, noting that despite the Group's combined demographic weight, strategic markets, and abundant resources, intra-D-8 trade remains below its true potential. He stressed that the current level of trade within the Group does not yet reflect the scale of opportunities available to Member States, nor does it align with the ambitions set forth in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020–2030.

The Chair recalled that the D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030 outlines a collective aspiration to raise intra-D-8 trade to USD 500 billion by 2030—an attainable target, provided that Member States work closely together, deepen cooperation, and accelerate implementation of agreed initiatives. In this context, he underscored the centrality of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) as the foundation of the Group's trade architecture and reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to completing its national ratification process.

He called upon Member States to pursue an ambitious, forward-looking approach to strengthening and expanding the PTA into a more progressive and comprehensive agreement. He highlighted the need to address barriers to trade, support SMEs, enhance investment promotion, and advance cooperation in customs modernization, trade facilitation, logistics connectivity, and digital trade.

The Chair also encouraged greater engagement with the private sector, academia, and innovation networks, noting the value of evidence-based contributions from institutions such as the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI). He expressed Egypt's readiness to support constructive technical work, including through the Experts Working Group on PTA expansion, and reiterated Cairo's dedication to ensuring the success of the 4th TMC.

The Chair's Opening Statement is attached as **Annex II**.

Agenda Item 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The Meeting considered and adopted its agenda, which is attached as **Annex III**.

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report by the D-8 Secretary-General

H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, presented a detailed progress report on developments in D-8 trade cooperation since the 3rd TMC held in Dhaka, in 2023. He briefed Ministers on the outcomes of the Eighth Meeting of the Supervisory Committee and the First Meeting of the Experts Working Group (EWG) on Expanding the D-8 PTA into a more progressive framework, held on 16 June and 12 November 2025, respectively. The Secretary-General's Statement is attached as **Annex IV**.

Agenda Item 4: Statements by Hon'ble Ministers of the D-8 Member States

Ministers and Heads of Delegation delivered their national statements, reaffirming their resolve to fully implement the PTA and to promote stronger trade and investment cooperation among D-8 Member States. The interventions of Member States are compiled in **Annex V**.

Agenda Item 5: Adoption of the 8th Report of the Supervisory Committee

The Council adopted the 8th Report of the Supervisory Committee Meeting, which convened in Abuja, Nigeria, on 16 June 2025. The adopted Report is attached as **Annex VI**.

Agenda Item 6: Update on the Work of the Experts Working Group on the Scoping Exercise for PTA Expansion

Egypt, in its capacity as Chair of the Experts Working Group on the Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA, presented an update on the Group's work. Egypt briefed the Meeting on the Terms of Reference adopted by the EWG and emphasized the importance of structured analytical work to guide Member States toward a modernized and more comprehensive trading arrangement.

Agenda Item 7: Deliberations on Exploring Pathways for PTA Expansion

The Council held extensive deliberations on possible pathways for expanding the D-8 PTA. Key interventions included the following:

Türkiye emphasized the need to broaden product coverage under the D-8 PTA and highlighted the importance of advancing toward a more ambitious trade framework, including the possibility of an FTA-type arrangement or a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Türkiye recalled that it had presented strategic modalities for advancing the PTA expansion process, noting that these modalities collectively aim to provide Member States with flexible yet coherent pathways toward deeper trade integration.

Türkiye also expressed a clear preference for exploring the feasibility of a CEPA, consistent with the direction set by the Cairo Declaration. Türkiye further underscored the importance of strengthening governance mechanisms, ensuring inclusive consultations among Member States,

and accelerating progress in customs cooperation and trade facilitation to support a smooth and effective expansion process.

Indonesia reaffirmed its support for the expansion of the PTA and encouraged all remaining Member States to finalize their domestic procedures. Indonesia noted that expansion could follow either an incremental approach or a comprehensive single-undertaking model. Serving as Vice-Chair of the EWG, Indonesia reiterated its readiness to contribute to technical work and emphasized the value of practical trade-facilitation measures.

Pakistan encouraged all Member States to complete the ratification of the PTA and called for the revision of existing offer lists as an essential step toward advancing the expansion process. Pakistan further underscored the importance of facilitating visas for businesspersons as a means of strengthening private-sector engagement, including through the organization of D-8 Business Forums on the margins of D-8 Summit Meetings. Pakistan also reiterated its support for the operationalization of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce Secretariat in Istanbul as a key mechanism to enhance private-sector cooperation across the Organization.

Nigeria reaffirmed its strong commitment to the expansion agenda and expressed readiness to cooperate with the EWG to advance its work. Nigeria highlighted the need to strengthen institutional capacity and ensure sustained political support to implement the Group's recommendations.

Egypt emphasized the significant untapped economic potential within the D-8 and stated that expansion of the PTA is essential for progressing toward the shared target of USD 500 billion in intra-D-8 trade. Egypt reiterated its commitment to completing the ratification process and expressed openness to both FTA and CEPA pathways. Egypt also underscored the importance of supporting SMEs, removing non-tariff barriers, enhancing private-sector engagement, and improving trade facilitation mechanisms.

The Secretary-General, responding to Pakistan's observations on visa facilitation, recalled that the D-8 Visa Facilitation Agreement is already in place, though not yet fully implemented by all Member States. He informed the Meeting that Bangladesh has expressed its readiness to host the next meeting of consular officials to advance progress in this area.

He also expressed support for the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), noting that such a structure would strengthen institutional memory and ensure continuity of operations, especially since the current arrangement where the D-8 CCI Chairmanship rotates in line with the Organization's Chairmanship limits long-term operational consistency.

Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the Cairo Declaration on D-8 Organization's Trade Cooperation

The Council adopted the “**Cairo Declaration on D-8 Organization's Trade Cooperation**”, reaffirming the collective determination of Member States to deepen trade integration and accelerate progress toward an expanded and more progressive D-8 PTA. The adopted text of the Declaration is attached as **Annex VII**.

Agenda Item 9: Signing Ceremony of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism Protocol

The Council witnessed the signing of the Protocol on the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) of the D-8 PTA by the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The DSM Protocol text is attached as **Annex VIII**.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business

Under this item, Türkiye presented several proposals to enhance private-sector engagement within the D-8 cooperation framework. Türkiye emphasized that deeper participation by the business community would reinforce intra-D-8 trade and support sustainable economic integration.

Türkiye proposed the formal inclusion of private-sector representatives in relevant D-8 meetings and expressed readiness to host the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) in Istanbul, in cooperation with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB). Türkiye further proposed that Business Forums be held on the margins of future TMC sessions.

The meeting appreciated Türkiye's Proposal and unanimously endorsed the establishment of the D-8 CCI permanent Secretariat in Istanbul

Azerbaijan supported Türkiye's proposals, including the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 CCI and the convening of Business Forums alongside TMC meetings.

Egypt expressed support for Türkiye's offer to host the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 CCI in Istanbul. Pakistan likewise endorsed the proposal and conveyed its readiness to support the Secretariat's activities.

Indonesia informed the Meeting of its readiness to host a Business Forum on the margins of the 12th D-8 Summit, to be held in April 2026. Indonesia further proposed the establishment of a D-8 Business Advisory Council, drawing on models used in APEC and ASEAN.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation for Türkiye's proposal and unanimously endorsed the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) in Istanbul. The Meeting further welcomed and endorsed the broader set of proposals by Indonesia and encouraged Ministers to invite companies with active or potential business interests

in D-8 Member States to participate in the Business Forum to be convened on the margins of the 12th D-8 Summit and the 5th TMC in Indonesia.

Agenda Item 11: Date and Venue of the 5th D-8 Trade Ministers Council

The Republic of Indonesia informed the Meeting of its readiness to host the 5th D-8 TMC. The specific date and venue will be communicated through diplomatic channels.

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the Meeting Report

The Meeting noted that the draft Report had been prepared by the Secretariat. It will be circulated to Member States for adoption, under a silence procedure.

Agenda Item 13: Closing

The Secretary-General expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. He congratulated H.E. Engr. Hassan Elkhatab for his effective and able chairmanship of the 4th TMC. He further conveyed his gratitude to all Member States for their valuable contributions, constructive interventions, and active participation throughout the deliberations.

The Secretary-General also congratulated Member States on the adoption of the Cairo Declaration on D-8 Organization's Trade Cooperation and encouraged them to ensure its effective implementation, noting that the commitments embodied in the Declaration will further strengthen cooperation and significantly contribute to enhancing intra-D-8 trade.

In his concluding remarks, the Chair reiterated that intra-D-8 trade remains below its potential and reaffirmed that the collective ambition of reaching USD 500 billion in intra-D-8 trade by 2030, as outlined in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap, is both realistic and achievable with sustained and coordinated efforts by all Member States. He welcomed the strong commitment expressed during the Meeting to advance the expansion of the D-8 PTA into a more progressive and comprehensive agreement and emphasized the need to address structural impediments, streamline procedures, and strengthen the overall trade environment.

The Chair highlighted the importance of private-sector engagement and encouraged Member States to actively facilitate the participation of businesses, including through Business Forums to be held on the margins of the next Summit Meetings and TMC. He further underscored the value of research-driven cooperation, particularly through the D-8 NPRI, and reiterated his proposal for establishing a D-8 Seed Bank to enhance agricultural resilience and food security.

He stressed the central role of investment promotion in deepening trade integration and expressed confidence that the decisions taken at the 4th TMC will significantly contribute to strengthening intra-D-8 trade. The Chair thanked all Ministers and Heads of Delegation for their constructive contributions and reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to supporting collective efforts.

The Meeting was officially closed on 2 December 2025.

List of Delegates
4th D-8 Trade Ministers Council,
Cairo, Egypt, 2 December 2025

Country	Name and Institution
Azerbaijan	H.E. Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy (Head of Delegation) Samad.Bashirli@economy.gov.az
	Ms. Inara Mustafayeva Ayyubova, Head of Department, Cooperation with International Organizations, Ministry of Economy inara.mustafayeva@economy.gov.az
	Mr. Miralakbar Alakbarli, Chief Adviser, Trade and Foreign Investment Policy Department, Trade Policy Division, Ministry of Economy mirelekber.elekberli@economy.gov.az
Bangladesh	H.E. Ms. Samina Naz, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Egypt (Head of Delegation)
	Mr. Goutam Kumar Dey, Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Egypt goutam.kumar@mofa.gov.bd
Egypt	H.E. Eng. Hassan ElKhatib (Head of Delegation) The Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade
	Ambassador Sherif Kamel D-8 Commissioner. Assistant Minister for Multilateral International and Regional Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
	Dr. Amany Elwassal, Head of the Agreements and Foreign Trade Sector, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade.
	Mr. Gomaa M. Madny, Head of Trade Agreements Central Dept., Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade. g.madny1@gmail.com

Indonesia	H.E. Mrs. Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri, Vice-Minister for Trade, Ministry of Trade (Head of Delegation) WAMENDAG@KEMENDAG.GO.ID
	Mr. Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono, Director General, Directorate General of International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade team.oicd8@kemendag.go.id
	Mr. Gangsar Kurniawan, Trade Negotiator, Directorate General of International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade gangsar.kurniawan@kemendag.go.id
	Mr. Ryan Abraham Pratama, Head of Sub-Division of the Vice Minister's Administrative and the Minister's Expert Staff Secretariat, General Ministry of Trade ABRAHAMRYAN91@GMAIL.COM
	Miss Devi Surya Putri, Trade Negotiator, Directorate General of International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade DEVI.SURYAPUTRI@KEMENDAG.GO.ID
	Mr. Abdul Gafur, Minister Counsellor, Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Cairo abdul.gafur@kemlu.go.id
Iran	Mr. Rifki Rustam Arsyad, Second Secretary, Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Cairo rifki.rustam@kemlu.go.id
	H.E. Mohammad Ali, Dehghan Dehnavi, Vice Minister & TPO President, Iran Trade Promotion Organization (Head of Delegation)
	Mr Mohammadreza Safari Hajat Aghaei, Director General of Africa Office, Iran Trade Promotion Organization Safariha1990@gmail.com
Malaysia	H.E Dato' Mohd Tarid Sufian (Head of Delegation) Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Malaysia to Egypt (Head of Delegation)

	Mr. Mohd Khairy Maidin, African Senior Manager, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Egypt mtriad@kln.gov.my/ mwcairo@kln.gov.my
Nigeria	Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (Head of Delegation) nurarimi@hotmail.com
	Aliyu Bunu Sheriff, Special Assistant to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Export Expansion Albush05@hotmail.com Aliyu.sheriff@statehouse.gov.ng
	Mr. Dauda Yah, Principal Trade Officer, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment dauda.yahi@fmiti.gov.ng
	Mr. Ishaya Garba, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Egypt
	Mrs. Zahra Mohammed, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Egypt
Pakistan	H.E. Mr. Jam Kamal Khan (Head of Delegation) The Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce cmoislamabad@gmail.com
	H.E. Amb Ahmed Amjad Ali, Additional Secretary (SIFC&ED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, D-8 Commissioner. astd@commerce.gov.pk
	H.E. Aamir Shouket, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Egypt
	Hania Badr - Embassy of Pakistan, Trade Officer, Embassy of Pakistan, Cairo
	Asad Khan Afridi, Commercial Attache, Embassy of Pakistan, Cairo
	Mr Abdullah, Deputy Head of Mission - Embassy of Pakistan, Cairo
	Mr Rizwan, Information Officer, Embassy of Pakistan, Cairo
Türkiye	H.E. Dr. Omer Bolat, Minister for Trade

	H.E. Mustafa Tuzcu, Deputy Minister for Trade
	H.E. Salih Mutlu Şen, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Egypt
	Tarık Sonmez, Director General sonmezt@ticaret.gov.tr
	Mr. Hüsni Dilemre, Director General dilemreh@ticaret.gov.tr
	Mr. Recep Aydın, Chief of Staff
	Bekir Sıddık Kızmaz, Trade Expert – Advisor to Deputy Minister
	Ms. Aylin Bebekoğlu, Deputy Director General
	Tayfun Kiliç, Deputy Director General
	İsmail Sinan, Gültekin, Head of Department gultekins@ticaret.gov.tr
	Asuman Kiliç Türkeş, Head of Department
	Ms. Ayşegül Demir, Trade Expert
	Mr. Nurullah Asım Akbulut, Trade Expert akbulutn@ticaret.gov.tr
	Osman Acisu, Trade Expert
	Ümit Mert Erkoyuncu, Trade Expert
	Fatih Sultan Mehmet Polat, Trade Expert
D-8 Secretariat	H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam- D-8 Secretary-General
	H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Ozcan- Director, I, Administrative, Legal, and Internal Affairs. mustafa.ozcan@developing8.org
	Mr. Bilal Khan- Executive Assistant Bilal.khan@developing8.org
	Dr. Ismail Bello- Executive Assistant/Trade Cooperation Desk Ismail.bello@developing8.org

Opening Remarks for HE Hassan El-khatib D-8 Ministers of Trade Meeting

Excellencies, Ministers,

**Excellency the Secretary-General of the Developing Eight Organization
(D-8),**

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

**It is a great honor to welcome you all today in Cairo... and to address
such a distinguished ministerial gathering under the umbrella of the D-
8 Organization for Economic Cooperation — a platform built on shared
values, deep cultural bonds, and a collective aspiration for development
among our member states.**

Your presence here... reflects the importance we all attach to strengthening this partnership... at a moment when global trade is undergoing profound realignments... and economic blocs worldwide are redefining their strategic priorities.

Across our member states, the fundamentals are strong: young and dynamic populations... expanding markets... abundant resources... and strategic geographies that connect major regions of the world.

Yet despite this potential... our collective economic weight remains far below what we can achieve... if we move with greater speed, deeper coordination, and clearer alignment.

Intra-D8 trade stands at approximately USD 150 billion in 2024 — a figure that highlights opportunity... but also reveals a substantial gap between where we are and where we should be.

And it is precisely within this gap... that our shared opportunity lies.

From the outset of Egypt's Chairmanship... our vision has been clear and focused:

to steer our cooperation into a new phase — one defined by practical implementation... stronger connectivity... open markets... smoother trade flows... and deeper investment partnerships.

In this regard... Egypt places strong emphasis on the full activation of the Preferential Trade Agreement... advancing the Trade Facilitation Strategy... agreeing on a binding timeline for outstanding technical elements... and operationalizing the Dispute Settlement Committee — all critical steps toward a more predictable and integrated trade environment.

Today... we have a genuine opportunity to advance this vision.

The launch of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Working Group... marks a strategic step toward expanding and modernizing our trade framework.

Together... we can chart a pathway that elevates intra-D8 trade to at least USD 500 billion — by 2030... in line with our Ten-Year Roadmap.

To pave the way toward this ambition... Egypt encourages all member states to work collectively across several priority pillars:

- **First: supporting SMEs and youth-led enterprises... which remain vital engines of job creation and innovation.**

Closer cooperation on financing... capacity building... and cross-border business partnerships... will unlock their full economic potential.

- **Second: accelerating cooperation on food security... particularly the establishment of the Regional Seed Bank... and exploring the creation of a strategic reserve for essential commodities... to strengthen resilience across our member states.**
- **Third: enhancing private-sector engagement... through regular business forums... investment missions... and platforms that enable companies in our countries to explore opportunities... forge partnerships... and scale successful projects.**

Excellencies...

We stand at an important moment — one that calls for unity of purpose... clarity of priorities... and the collective will to translate frameworks into real outcomes.

Egypt remains committed to working closely with all member states... to build a more dynamic, more connected, and more competitive D-8 economic space.

I look forward to discussions... that translate our collective ambition into concrete... achievable outcomes.

Thank you.

**The Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council
(4th D-8 TMC)**

**Hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt
Cairo, 2 December 2025**

Adopted Agenda

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|------------------------|---|
| Agenda Item 1: | Opening |
| Agenda Item 2: | Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda |
| Agenda Item 3: | Progress Report by D-8 Secretary-General |
| Agenda Item 4: | Statement by the Hon’ble Trade/Commerce/ Investment Ministers of the D-8 Member States |
| Agenda Item 5: | Adoption of the Report of the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA |
| Agenda Item 6: | Information Update on the Work of the Experts Working Group on the Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA into a More Progressive Instrument |
| Agenda Item 7: | Deliberation on Exploring Pathways for PTA Expansion |
| Agenda Item 8: | Adoption of the “Cairo Declaration on Trade” by the D-8 Trade Ministers |
| Agenda Item 9: | Signing of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol of the D-8 PTA |
| Agenda Item 10: | Any Other Business |
| Agenda Item 11: | Date & venue of the 5th D-8 Trade Ministers Council |
| Agenda Item 12: | Adoption of the Meeting Report on Silence Procedure |
| Agenda Item 13: | Closing |

The Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council

(4th D-8 TMC)

Hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt

Cairo, 2 December 2025

Annotated Adopted Agenda

Agenda Item - 1: Opening Session

- The Honorable Minister of Investment and Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as the Chair of the 4th D-8 TMC, will deliver opening remarks and officially open the Meeting.

Agenda Item - 2: Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Agenda

The Meeting will consider and adopt the draft agenda of the Meeting.

Agenda Item - 3: Progress Report by D-8 Secretary-General

The D-8 Secretary-General will present a progress report on the D-8 activities on trade cooperation since the previous 3rd Meeting of the TMC, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 March 2024. The Report will also cover trade statistics of the D-8 Member States.

Agenda Item - 4: Statement by the Hon'ble Trade/Commerce/ Investment Ministers of the D-8 Member States

The Honorable Ministers/Heads of Delegations from the D-8 Member States will deliver their respective national remarks in alphabetical order (7 minutes each).

Agenda Item - 5: Adoption Report of the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA.

The Supervisory Committee was established pursuant to Article 27 of the Preferential Trade Agreement among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA) to review the progress made in implementing the D-8 PTA. The Government of Nigeria, as the Chair of SC PTA, hosted the 8th SC PTA on 16 June 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria. One of the notable outcomes of the 8th SC PTA was the mandate to the Secretariat to convene an Expert Working Group (EWG) to discuss the possibility of expanding the D-8 PTA to a more progressive instrument. The TMC is hereby invited to adopt the Report of the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA, Abuja, Nigeria, 16 June 2025

Agenda Item – 6: Information Update on the Work of the Experts Working Group on the Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA into a more Progressive Instrument

On 12 November 2025, the Secretariat will facilitate the first meeting of the EWG on the Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA into a More Progressive Instrument and finalize and adopt its Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR provided a background on the current state of D-8 PTA, purpose and objectives of the EWG, composition, modalities, deliveries, timeline, funding, and outcome.

The representative from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in its capacity as the Chair of the Experts Working Group (EWG) on the Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA into a more Progressive Instrument, will provide an information update to the SOM on the outcome of the EWG meeting, which was held on 12 November 2025.

Agenda Item – 7: Deliberation on Exploring Pathways for PTA Expansion

The TMC will deliberate on the way forward to further deepen and expand the intra-D-8 trade, particularly through the effective operationalization of the D-8 PTA.

Given the rising momentum of the need to expand the D-8 PTA, the TMC is expected to decide on the modalities for the expansion of the D-8 PTA, including weighing the options to i) expand the offer list and creating request list, ii) embark on scoping a free trade agreement, and/or iii) embark on scoping a comprehensive economic partnership agreement.

The TMC is also invited to encourage the D-8 Member States to host and organize capacity building programs on the implementation of the D-8 PTA, including the application of the D-8 Customs Agreement to supplement the PTA. In this regard, the TMC may request the Customs Officials of the D-8 Member States to resume their regular meetings to compare notes and share the best experiences in implementing the D-8 PTA.

Agenda Item - 8: Adoption of the “Cairo Declaration on Trade” by the D-8 Trade Ministers

The Meeting will consider and adopt the ‘Cairo Declaration on Trade’, which has been deliberated and endorsed by the Senior Officials’ Meeting.

Agenda Item - 9: Date & venue of the 5th D-8 Trade Ministers Council

The current Chair will invite the next Chair of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council to apprise the D-8 Member States about the tentative date and venue of the 5th D-8 Trade Ministers Council.

Agenda Item – 10: Signing of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol of the D-8 PTA

The D-8 Member States, who haven't done so, may wish to sign the DSM Protocol during this Agenda Item of the 4th TMC.

Agenda Item - 11: Any Other Business

The Meeting will discuss any other issues raised by the Member States or the Secretariat, if any.

Agenda Item - 12: Adoption of the Meeting Report

The Meeting will consider and adopt the Report of the 4th D-8 TMC.

Agenda Item - 13: Closing Session

- The D-8 Secretary-General will deliver closing remarks.
- The Chair of the 4th D-8 TMC will deliver closing remarks and subsequently adjourn the meeting.

Statement by the Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, at the 4th Session of D-8 Trade Ministers Council, hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt, Cairo, 2 December 2025

Mr. Chairman, His Excellency Eng. Hassan ElKhatib, the Honorable Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Honourable Ministers/State and Deputy Ministers of the D-8 Member States,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be back in Cairo, for the **Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council** (4th D-8 TMC). I extend my gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, particularly the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, for

hosting this meeting. I thank Egypt, for the generous hospitality afforded to me and my delegation.

I also thank all the esteemed delegations, for attending this crucial meeting, particularly, the delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan, who is attending the TMC, for the first time. As we all know, Azerbaijan joined the D-8 family, and became a full member, in March 2025.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

We are gathered, at a pivotal moment, when global trade is undergoing structural shifts, occasioned by rising protectionist policies, and increasing non-tariff measures, in response to geopolitical frictions.

Against this backdrop, however, the World Trade Organization and World Bank, underline that, trade remains a powerful driver

of development, as evident in the increase of global merchandise and services, which reached a record \$33 trillion, in 2024, contributing to a fall in global poverty. For the D-8, therefore, strengthening our trade cooperation, **is essential**, for our shared prosperity.

At this juncture, **Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**, allow me to brief, this August Council, on the progress of D-8 trade cooperation, since the 3rd D-8 TMC in Dhaka in 2024.

Firstly, Türkiye hosted the Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers' Council, in Istanbul on 11 June 2024, during which, the Ministers agreed, amongst others, to expand the PTA's Offer List. At the meeting, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, and Türkiye, signed the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol, of the

PTA. Egypt signed the DSM Protocol in July 2025, as a part of her D-8 PTA, ratification process.

Secondly, Nigeria hosted the Eighth Session of the Supervisory Committee (SCM) of the D-8 PTA, in Abuja, on 16 June 2025. The SCM-PTA agreed that a scoping exercise, and comparative study for the proposed D-8 PTA expansion, must be conducted. They also tasked the Secretariat, to establish the Experts Working Group, on the D8 PTA expansion.

Thirdly, the D-8 Secretariat, in line with the directives of the 8th SCM of the PTA, convened the first Meeting of the Experts Working Group (EWG), for the Expansion of the D-8 PTA, on 12 November 2025, through virtual channel. During its inaugural meeting, the EWG, adopted its nomenclature, Terms of Reference, and work timeline.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates. During the period under review, we successfully launched the D-8 SME Centre, in Abuja, Nigeria, in June, 2025. Among others, the Centre is expected to reinforce the participation of our SMEs, in the D-8 PTA. Nigeria, has appointed a Director, for the SME Centre, while arrangements are on-going, to develop an Action Plan, which will guide its operations.

Also, Pakistan, through the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, (SMEDA) hosted the 8th Meeting of D-8 SME Governmental Bodies, virtually, on 10 September 2025.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

At this juncture, allow me to give an update, on our flagship trade instrument, the **Preferential Trade Agreement, among D-8 Member States**, (D-8 PTA), which was signed by

all the founding Members of the D-8 in May, 2006 in Bali, Indonesia.

- To date, **seven Member States have ratified**, the D-8 PTA.
- Six Contracting Members, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Türkiye, have operationalized the D-8 PTA.
- In 2024, **653** certificates of origin, were issued, with a value of **6 billion US Dollars**, while from January to July 2025, we noted **357** certificates of origin, valued at **231 million US Dollars**.
- The 2024 intra-trade figure is US\$165 billion, or about 7% of the bloc's total trade value, of about US\$2.3 trillion.

The value, recorded above, show that the D-8 PTA has yet to contribute, significantly to the intra-D-8 trade. This is far below the target, set by our Leaders, for intra-D-8 trade to reach, at least **10% of the bloc's total trade value**, or preferably **500 billion US Dollars**, by 2030. This is the challenge that we must address.

To respond to this challenge, **Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates**, our organization is making progress towards expanding the D-8 PTA, into a more progressive instrument, in line with the 2024 Cairo Declaration, by our leaders, who said and I quote:

*"Note with keen interest, the discourse on the need to upgrade the D-8 PTA, to a **more progressive instrument**, such as, a **comprehensive economic partnership agreement**, to enable the D-8 to be a more dynamic, powerful, competitive, and impactful economic bloc, including to venturing into potential sectors for trade in services, in the next phase of cooperation" --- end of quote.*

The Leaders also tasked the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, to conduct **a study, scoping exercise, and comparative analysis**, to identify the modalities and way forward, for the expansion of the D-8 PTA.

This growing momentum to expand D-8 PTA, is a welcome development. The D-8 Secretariat has taken concrete steps,

toward advancing, this conversation. For instance, and as I have mentioned earlier, the D-8 Secretariat convened the first Meeting of the Experts Working Group, for the PTA Expansion, virtually, on 12 November 2025.

Also, the Secretariat intends to table the CEPA initiative, before the newly established **D-8 Network of Economic Think Tanks (NETT)**, for analytical consideration. We hope that the D-8 NETT would provide evidence-based insights, on the potential economic impact and feasibility of CEPA, so that any future decision is both technically sound, and strategically beneficial, for all Member States.

The Secretariat is also engaging potential partners, such as, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Trade and

Development (UNCTAD), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), to mobilize resources, to support our collective endeavour, to strengthen our economic bloc.

Before I conclude, **Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen**, allow me to express my deep appreciation, to our Senior Officials on Trade, who met yesterday. The Senior Officials deliberated, extensively, and finalized, the draft 2025 Cairo Declaration on Trade Cooperation, which this esteemed Council, will approve.

The Declaration, before us, sets out a clear framework of actionable commitments, for Member States, to advance our collective trade cooperation. It will strengthen our resolve, to expand the D-8 PTA, while also encourage the SC PTA to commence, the negotiation process, to revise the Offer List, to implement the D-8 PTA better.

Allow me to use this opportunity, **Mr. Chair, Excellencies**, to inform this eminent gathering that, I will be completing my tenure, as the Secretary General of the D-8 Organization, effectively, 1 January 2026. It is important I bring this to your notice, and to thank you all, for your support and cooperation, in the last four years.

I wish us a successful deliberation and I thank you for your kind attention.

Bangladesh Country Statement
4th Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt | 2 December 2025

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem.

Hon'ble Trade Ministers of Member States,

Hon'ble Secretary General of D-8 H.E. Ambassador Ishaka A. Imam,

Excellencies and Ambassadors of Member States,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu alaikum and very good morning. On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I wish to express my profound appreciation for the gracious hosting of the 4th Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council by the Arab Republic of Egypt. We commend the Government of Egypt for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements that have greatly contributed to the success of this important gathering.

Excellencies,

We wish to take note with appreciation of the advanced progress made by the Arab Republic of Egypt toward the completion of its national procedures for the ratification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement. We acknowledge Egypt's commitment to duly notifying the D-8 Secretariat and all Member States upon the conclusion of its domestic processes, and we look forward to welcoming Egypt's full participation in the Agreement in due course.

Bangladesh also warmly welcomes the operationalization of the D-8 PTA by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Pakistan's entry—alongside Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye, which have already operationalized the Agreement—marks an important step toward the broader and more meaningful application of the PTA across the D-8 region. We view this development as a positive momentum toward enhanced trade integration and deeper economic cooperation among our Member States.

Distinguished delegates,

We extend our sincere commendation to the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA for its dedicated efforts in fulfilling its mandate to strengthen the effective implementation of the Agreement. We particularly recognize the Committee's initiative in undertaking discussions on

the prospective expansion of the D-8 PTA. Bangladesh encourages the Committee to continue its important work with renewed vigour and in the spirit of our shared commitment to enhanced economic cooperation.

Bangladesh remains firmly of the view that the D-8 PTA should progressively evolve into a broader, deeper, and more comprehensive instrument—potentially through an organization-wide Free Trade Agreement or a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the D-8 CEPA Working Group and entrust it with the crucial responsibility of expediting its analytical and technical tasks. We look forward to receiving its periodic updates through the Supervisory Committee and its final recommendations.

We also take note, with high appreciation, of the outcomes of the Expert Working Group on the proposed expansion of the D-8 PTA. Bangladesh concurs that any future expansion process must be anchored in a thorough assessment of the current situation, including the progress achieved, the gaps that remain, and the preparedness levels across our Member States.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh reaffirms its unwavering commitment to working closely with all D-8 Member States to advance our shared vision of deeper economic integration, enhanced trade facilitation, and mutually beneficial development cooperation. We express our sincere appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat and all working groups for their continued dedication and valuable contributions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Statement by the Commerce Minister of Pakistan, Mr Jam Kamal Khan

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim

Assalamualikum and good morning.

It is an honour to participate in the Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, **Mr. Hassan El Khatib**, for hosting this important gathering and for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations. We meet at a time of rapidly evolving global economic dynamics, making it essential for D-8 member states to strengthen cooperation and ensure that our collective efforts continue to advance in a positive, productive, and forward-looking direction.

This meeting represents more than a routine engagement. It symbolizes our collective resolve to strengthen the foundations of economic partnership, to advance mutually beneficial trade, and to ensure that development across our member states is inclusive, balanced, and sustainable. The D8 has grown into a platform that brings together countries with significant economic potential, strategic geographic positions, and shared aspirations for progress. Pakistan attaches great importance to this forum because it provides us with a unique opportunity to collaborate, exchange ideas, and design strategies that can serve the long term interests of our peoples.

To this end Pakistan welcomes the Republic of Azerbaijan as the 9th member of the D-8 and we look forward to greater collaboration among our brotherly countries in this group.

The global economic environment is confronting multiple challenges—rising protectionism, supply chain uncertainties, climate-related disruptions, and volatile commodity markets. In this context, the importance of regional cooperation becomes even clearer. Platforms like the D-8 enable collective action to stabilise trade flows, promote investment, and strengthen market confidence. It is therefore vital that we continue to deepen our cooperation in areas most critical to our shared economic future.

One of the most significant instruments for our cooperation is the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement, which holds strong potential for expanding intra-D8 trade. By reducing tariffs, simplifying procedures, and creating a predictable trading environment, the PTA can significantly enhance market access and encourage private-sector engagement. Pakistan believes that effective implementation of the PTA is essential for realising its full benefits. We remain committed to working with all member states to resolve operational issues, harmonise procedures, and streamline documentation so the PTA becomes fully functional and impactful for all stakeholders.

However, trade agreements can only succeed when supported by strong institutional mechanisms and genuine collaboration. We must advance cooperation in customs, standardisation, mutual recognition, and logistics connectivity. Efficient transport corridors, integrated digital systems, and predictable transit arrangements are essential for smoother regional trade. Pakistan stands ready to contribute

constructively and to support initiatives that strengthen supply chain linkages across the D-8 community.

The private sector plays a central role in driving trade, investment, and economic growth. We must therefore ensure an enabling environment that encourages businesses to explore opportunities across D-8 markets, supported by policy stability, access to information, and appropriate financial facilitation. Pakistan welcomes deeper B2B engagement, joint ventures, technology collaboration, and sectoral partnerships where our economies complement one another.

Another area of importance is sustainable development. Economic development must go hand in hand with environmental responsibility and social inclusion. Our cooperation in food security, textiles, agriculture, energy, technology, and innovation can help build resilience and support long term prosperity. Pakistan believes that the D8 can serve as a model for South-South cooperation by promoting best practices, capacity building, and joint initiatives that address common challenges.

Furthermore, we must recognise the changing global trade landscape. Digital trade, e commerce, and technology driven services are expanding rapidly. Our member states must keep pace with these developments by investing in digital infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and facilitating cross border e commerce platforms. Pakistan is keen to work with D8 partners to explore opportunities in the digital economy, including fintech, digital payments, and innovation hubs.

Ladies and gentlemen, a more connected D8 community can significantly enhance economic resilience, social progress, and regional stability. Our shared values, diverse strengths, and youthful populations give us a unique collective advantage. With the right policies and a spirit of partnership, we can transform our region into a dynamic centre of trade and development.

As we begin our deliberations today, I am confident that our dialogue will be constructive and forward-looking. Pakistan remains fully committed to supporting initiatives that advance the D8's objectives and promote shared prosperity. I look forward to working closely with my distinguished counterparts to deepen cooperation and build a more integrated and prosperous D8 region.

Thank you.

**Statement by Mr. Samad Bashirli,
Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan,
at the 4th Meeting of Trade Ministers of the D-8 Organization for Economic
Cooperation**

2 December 2025, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear Hassan El-Khatib,

Dear Honourable Mr. Imam,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour for me to address this important gathering on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Allow me to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of today's meeting.

This session holds special significance for my country. It is the first time Azerbaijan participates at the level of Trade Ministers since joining the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in 2024. Today's meeting therefore represents not only a formal engagement, but also an important opportunity for Azerbaijan to observe closely the dynamics of trade cooperation within the D-8, understand current priorities, and align our participation with the strategic direction of the Organization.

The D-8's Timely and Geopolitical Importance in Today's Global Trade Environment

The D-8 brings together countries spanning strategically important regions across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. At a time when global trade is shaped by uncertainty, geopolitical shifts, and disruptions in supply and value chains, the D-8 stands out as a practical platform for strengthening trade resilience, diversifying markets, supporting south-south cooperation, and enhancing collective bargaining power within global economic governance.

The Organization's combined market of more than one billion consumers and growing industrial and technological capabilities gives it the potential to play an increasingly influential role in global trade.

By connecting multiple regions and economic systems, the D-8 provides an important geopolitical bridge that can contribute to stable, predictable and mutually beneficial trade partnerships.

Azerbaijan's Approach to Trade Cooperation within the D-8

Azerbaijan views trade as the central driver of the D-8's mission. Closely observing today's discussions allows us to understand how Member States are advancing coordination toward increasing intra-D-8 trade and improving the rules-based environment for economic exchange.

The share of D-8 countries in Azerbaijan's total foreign trade turnover constituted 13.57 percent.

More than 10,000 companies from D-8 member states are actively operating in Azerbaijan in sectors such as agriculture, industry, trade, services, transport, and construction. From 1995 to the first half of 2025, investments from D-8 member states into the Azerbaijani economy exceeded 26.6 billion US dollars, including nearly 5 billion US dollars in the non-oil sector. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's investments into the economies of D-8 member countries amount to 20.3 billion US dollars.

These figures demonstrate both the scale of existing cooperation and the potential for further expansion of trade and investment relations within the Organization.

Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

Azerbaijan has developed into a major transport and logistics hub connecting Asia with Europe through the Middle Corridor. We are ready to expand cooperation in customs simplification and digitalization, trade procedures modernization, multimodal connectivity, and strengthening air and maritime routes.

These areas complement the Organization's efforts to reduce trade barriers and improve predictability for business communities.

Position on the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

Azerbaijan takes note of the significant progress achieved by several Member States in implementing the PTA.

As a new member observing this process for the first time, Azerbaijan considers it important to fully study the tariff reduction modalities, rules of origin, schedules of concessions, implementation and institutional mechanisms, and the broader implications for national tariff structures and development priorities.

Our approach is constructive, careful and forward-looking.

We will continue engaging in discussions and assessing how to align with the Organization's evolving trade arrangements in a way that ensures mutual benefit for all members.

In this regard, we also propose expanding the investment component within the Trade and Investment Working Group — particularly through events dedicated to exchanging experience on investment policy, legislation, and measures to stimulate investment activity.

Azerbaijan's Value as a New Contributor to the D-8 Trade Cooperation

Azerbaijan brings to the D-8 a stable economic environment, growing non-oil exports, strong logistics infrastructure, active participation in major regional transport corridors, and globally recognized experience in multilateral coordination, strengthened further through hosting COP29.

We are ready to channel these capacities into strengthening the D-8's trade ecosystem, improving regional connectivity, and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth.

Closing Remarks

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

We reaffirm our readiness to engage actively, cooperate constructively, and contribute meaningfully to the shared objectives of enhancing trade, strengthening economic ties, and boosting intra-D-8 connectivity.

We thank once again the host country and the D-8 Secretariat for their leadership and extend our best wishes for a productive and successful continuation of this meeting.

Thank you.



SPEECH BY H.E. MR. SEYED
MOHAMMAD ATABAK MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY, MINE AND TRADE OF I.R
OF IRAN
FOURTH D-8 MINISTERIAL TRADE
MEETING



DECEMBER 2, 2025
CAIRO-EGYPT

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its gracious and warm hospitality, and to the D-8 Secretariat for its diligent and impeccable arrangements.

The D-8 organization is endowed with abundant resources, vibrant populations, and a strategically pivotal geographic location, collectively presenting immense potential for the bloc to establish itself as a formidable economic force on the global stage. To realize this vast potential, it is incumbent upon us to deepen our integration, notably by enhancing intra-bloc trade within a robust preferential trade framework.

Distinguished Delegates,

Trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and fellow D-8 member states has exhibited remarkable expansion, registering an increase exceeding 150% over the past five years and reaching a volume of 22 billion USD. While this growth is encouraging, it nevertheless reflects only a fraction of our collective capabilities. Accordingly, I call upon all member states to endeavor toward the comprehensive implementation and operationalization of our Preferential Trade Agreement.

Since 2016, Iran has implemented the PTA; however, its utilization remains constrained by restrictive tariff concessions, outdated product classifications, and cumbersome rules of origin procedures. We propose to broaden the scope of covered products to encompass principal trade items and to simplify administrative mechanisms. An enhanced PTA will serve as an essential stepping stone toward substantive economic integration.

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers,

We commend the establishment of the "Scoping Exercise to Expand The D-8 PTA into a more Progressive Instrument" and encourage it to undertake thorough technical assessments with the support of relevant international organizations. The group's mandate should be to formulate balanced recommendations that equitably address the interests of all member states, culminating in concrete outcomes to be presented at our forthcoming ministerial meeting.

Beyond tariff liberalization, it is imperative to advance cooperation in critical domains including customs procedures, transport logistics, settlement mechanisms utilizing national currencies, and private sector engagement through our chambers of commerce.

Distinguished Delegates,

Despite the unprecedented unilateral sanctions faced by Iran, the Islamic Republic remains fully committed to constructive engagement within the D-8 framework. We trust the esteemed member states will acknowledge our specific circumstances and ensure that external restrictive measures do not hinder regional economic cooperation and integration.

In concluding, I reiterate my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and to the D-8 Secretariat for hosting this Meeting. May this meeting mark a significant milestone in our collective pursuit of deeper economic collaboration within the D-8 community.

Thank you very much.

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

**Malaysia Statement at the D-8 Fourth Trade Ministers' Council,
Cairo, 2 December 2025**

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for graciously hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us. We also wish to record our gratitude to the D-8 Secretariat and experts from the D-8 Member States for their tireless efforts and invaluable contributions in advancing the D-8 trade agenda.

The global trade landscape is undergoing profound transformation. Supply chains are shifting, competitive pressures are intensifying, and emerging sectors demand new and adaptive policy approaches. It is precisely for these reasons that the D-8 continues to serve as a vital platform for Malaysia, one through which we can strengthen our collective resilience, deepen cooperation, and enhance opportunities for our businesses.

At the centre of these efforts is the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (or D-8 PTA). We believe that this meeting provides a timely opportunity for D-8 Member States to discuss and review the current state of play, particularly with regard to the implementation and operationalisation of the D-8 PTA as well its proposed expansion. This meeting also serves as an important platform for experts from the D-8 Member States to engage productively, discuss pending issues, share their experiences and best practices to develop our trade cooperation that will benefit our economies in the long run.

The D-8 possesses tremendous potential for development, given the vast natural resources of its Member States, diversified human capital with a population of over 1 billion people, and a massive economy spanning across three (3) continents. With a combined GDP amounting to USD5.1 trillion, the D-8 accounts for more than 5% of global GDP.

The inclusion of leading economies from across the Islamic world further underscores the strategic significance of this Organisation. In this vein, the implementation of the D-8 PTA is of paramount importance in bringing demonstrable benefits to D-8 Member States, owing to its critical role as a catalyst in intensifying intra-D-8 trade and through the exchange of trade preferences among the D-8 PTA Contracting Members.

In the face of the changing dynamics of global trade and current global economic uncertainties, the D-8 PTA will also serve as a solid foundation for strengthening trade links and cooperation among its Member States, which will generate significant economic benefits. Azerbaijan's anticipated participation in D-8 PTA will also further expand the coverage and economic potential of the Agreement, strengthening the integration of the D-8 economies.

Malaysia further applauds D-8 Member States' unrelenting collective efforts in increasing intra-D-8 trade from USD135.15 billion in 2023 to USD149.85 billion in 2024. Malaysia remains steadfast in its support towards 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.

To unlock the bloc's full potential, Malaysia supports elevating the D-8 PTA to a more comprehensive framework, namely the D-8 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (D-8 CEPA) by 2027, after the D-8 PTA is fully implemented. This upgrade would involve revising the offer list and expanding cooperation to include trade in services, digital trade, and intellectual property rights, making D-8 more attractive, competitive, and resilient in the global economy. The scoping exercise for this upgrade, beginning in 2026, will mark an important step in modernising our economic cooperation. Malaysia hoped that other all Member States will participate actively in realising the benefits of this enhances agreement, opening new markets for mutual gain, and strengthening D-8 solidarity. Together, through collaboration and continued commitment, let us turn the D-8 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 and would once again like to thank the D-8 Secretariat and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting. Having said that, we are looking forward for an insightful discussion today.

**The Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council
Cairo, 2 December 2025**

**Agenda Item 4: Statement by Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Honorable Minister of Trade of the
Republic of Türkiye**

- His Excellency, My Brother, Hassan El-Khatib, the Esteemed Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt,
- Honorable Ministers,
- Distinguished Delegates,
- At the outset, I would like to extend my respectful greetings to all, on behalf of my country. I also express my gratitude to the Government of Egypt for its impeccable hospitality, and to the Secretariat for their outstanding efforts in organizing this meeting.
- It is also a distinct pleasure for me to attend this Ministerial Meeting with our brotherly nation Azerbaijan, now a member of the D-8 family, and to share this platform together for the first time. Azerbaijan's membership has undeniably enhanced the D-8's strategic weight.
- Furthermore, I express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his dedicated service and valuable contributions throughout his tenure and wish him success in his future endeavors.
- Distinguished Delegates,
- As you know, the D-8 idea was introduced in 1997 led by our late Prime Minister Professor Necmettin Erbakan, as a response to global challenges.
- We have always believed in the economic synergy that can be created with our brotherly nations with whom we share historical, economic, social, and cultural foundations.
- In this context, since the establishment of the D-8, we have attached great importance to cooperation under the D-8 framework and remained committed to the goals and objectives of our first declaration, the "İstanbul Declaration".
- The profound transformations in the global economic order, vulnerabilities in supply chains, acceleration of digitalization, and increasing sustainability concerns lead us, as D-8 countries, towards a stronger regional partnership.
- Today, with its young population exceeding 1.2 billion, its economic size of approximately 5 trillion dollars, and its trade volume of 2.3 trillion dollars, D-8 is one of the leading regional organizations not only in the Islamic world but also globally. D-8 also accounts for 63.3 per cent of the Islamic world's exports excluding energy.
- However, the global and regional trade volume of D-8 countries is still not at the desired level. Although, D-8 countries constitute 15 per cent of the world's population, their share in global

production is 4.3 per cent, and their share in global trade is 4.8 per cent. Intra-D-8 trade stands at 7 per cent, which remains below comparable regional trade blocs.

- Yet, our “2020-2030 Roadmap” sets the goal of increasing intra-D-8 trade to at least 10 per cent of our total trade or reaching 500 billion dollars by 2030 which is currently at 157 billion dollars.
- Distinguished Delegates,
- The most fundamental tool for achieving our common trade objectives is undoubtedly the “D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)”.
- With Pakistan beginning implementation as of 1st January 2025; the progress made by Egypt in its ratification process; and the ongoing implementation by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Türkiye, the geographical and trade coverage of the PTA has expanded significantly.
- Honorable Ministers,
- The progress made in implementing the PTA has encouraged us to move to the next stage.
- Expanding the product coverage of the PTA and adding new disciplines has become indispensable in order to deepen our regional trade. The current scope does not fully reflect the production and trade potential of our countries, and many product groups with mutual advantage remain outside the preferential regime.
- Furthermore, developing common rules in areas shaping modern trade—such as technical barriers, trade in services, investment, and digital trade—will strengthen both the size and diversity of our economic cooperation.
- These steps will transform the PTA from a static tariff document into a dynamic, comprehensive, and future-oriented economic integration tool.
- As you will recall, at the “Informal Trade Ministers Meeting” hosted by Türkiye in June last year in İstanbul, we launched a process to expand the coverage of the PTA.
- Subsequently, during the Summit held in Cairo roughly a year ago, our Heads of State gave clear guidance on this matter, and the “PTA Supervisory Committee” established a Working Group during its meeting in Nigeria, to examine this process technically. The Working Group held its first meeting on 12 November, and the process has begun.
- All these developments show that we, as D-8 countries, have entered a deeper economic integration phase. Türkiye strongly supports the rapid advancement of this work.
- Honorable Ministers,
- Distinguished Delegates,

- Another key complement to the PTA is the “D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy”. The implementation of this Strategy—adopted during our previous meeting in Dhaka in 2024—is vital for the PTA to create real impact on the ground.
- Indeed, tariff reductions can only translate into increased trade if customs procedures are simplified, electronic documents become widespread, border crossings are accelerated, and Single Window Systems are harmonized.
- Administrative delays and differing procedures in customs and trade operations prevent the full utilization of any preferential treatment. Thus, complimentary D-8 trade facilitation measures will not only reduce costs but also strengthen regional integration by increasing intra-D-8 trade.
- Türkiye supports the development of joint technical standards in this area and the institutionalization of regular cooperation mechanisms between customs administrations.
- We stand ready to fulfil our responsibilities to ensure the rapid implementation of the Strategy.
- Distinguished Delegates,
- For all these initiatives to succeed, greater and more institutional engagement of the private sector is also of critical importance. The real impact of trade policies is realized only when our firms can actively access and utilize these mechanisms.
- In this regard, strengthening the institutional capacity of the “D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry”, establishing regular consultation mechanisms, institutionalizing business forums, and reinforcing sectoral platforms are essential.
- Furthermore, joint investment projects, regional supply chain networks, and joint SME programs will help deepen our trade structurally as well as quantitatively.
- The dynamism of the private sector is one of the key drivers that will accelerate the D-8 economic integration process.
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Let me conclude with this: At a time when uncertainties in the global economy are rising, supply chains are being reshaped, and regional solidarity has become critical, the founding vision of the D-8—solidarity, justice, inclusiveness, and shared development—has never been more valuable.
- We believe that the decisions we will take today will shape the trade agenda of the D-8 in the coming years and will help transform our Organization into a more integrated, more resilient, and higher value-creating economic structure. Türkiye stands ready to provide all necessary support.
- I wish a successful meeting and hope that the decisions adopted today will be beneficial for all our countries.
- Thank you.



**Indonesia's Statement in the Occasion of
The 4th Session of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC)**

Cairo, 2 December 2025

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

H.E. Hassan El-Khatib, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

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

Distinguished delegates of the D-8 Member States;

A very good morning,

- 1) On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Egypt for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this year's Trade Ministers Council Meeting. It is a pleasure for the Indonesian delegation to be in Cairo, a city of history, culture, and enduring friendship among D-8 members.
- 2) I would also like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to the D-8 Secretary General and the D-8 Secretariat team for their continued support. Your efforts have been instrumental in coordinating our processes and ensuring the smooth organisation of the D-8 meetings.

Distinguished delegates,

- 3) Over the past years, the D-8 has made steady progress as a platform for strengthening trade and economic cooperation. Yet, we continue to face a global economic environment that is increasingly uncertain. Geopolitical tensions, disruptions in supply chains, rising protectionism, and the lingering effects of global crises demand that we work together more closely and more pragmatically.
- 4) In this context, we need to reaffirm our commitment to accelerating intra-D-8 trade. D-8 represents more than 1.1 billion people and a combined GDP exceeding USD 4 trillion. These fundamental strengths give us significant leverage—but to unlock this potential, we need to advance concrete initiatives.

- 5) We believe that the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) remains a central instrument to stimulate trade flows. The ongoing deliberations to expand and deepen the PTA should therefore be our shared priority. Indonesia supports efforts to broaden tariff coverage and increase the ambition of concessions.

Distinguished delegates,

- 6) We are pleased to welcome Azerbaijan as the newest member of the D-8, having officially joined at the beginning of this year. We look forward to Azerbaijan's active engagement in our cooperation frameworks, particularly through participation in the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), which will further enhance intra-D-8 trade.
- 7) Currently, six Member States—Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Türkiye—have implemented the D-8 PTA. We therefore encourage the remaining Member States to expedite their ratification and implementation processes so that, together, we can maximize the benefits of the PTA and advance our shared objectives for deeper economic integration and collective prosperity.
- 8) We also encourage Members to consider new disciplines, including those that facilitate trade, promote investment, and strengthen regulatory cooperation. This evolution—potentially towards a more comprehensive framework—must be undertaken with consideration of each Member's development priorities.
- 9) In this connection, Indonesia sees a tremendous opportunity for collaboration in halal trade and industry. With a fast-growing global halal market projected to reach over USD 3 trillion in the coming years, D-8 Members are well-positioned to strengthen our roles in halal food, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, fashion, and services. We believe that incorporating halal-related cooperation into our broader trade framework will support competitiveness and open wider market opportunities.

Distinguished delegates,

- 10) As we convene today, let us reaffirm the spirit with which the D-8 was established: economic cooperation, mutual benefit, and collective resilience. Let us strive to advance decisions that bring meaningful progress to our Ministers, our governments, and our business communities.

- 11) Indonesia stands ready to work together with all Member States to realise a more integrated, more innovative, and more prosperous D-8 economic community.
- 12) Before concluding, allow me once again to thank the Government of Egypt for hosting us, and to extend our appreciation to the D-8 Secretariat for its continued dedication in supporting our processes.
- 13) May our discussions today be fruitful and constructive, and may they pave the way for strengthened cooperation that benefits all D-8 nations.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

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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



The Cairo Declaration on D-8 Organization's Trade Cooperation
Adopted at the 4th Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council
Cairo, 2 December 2025

We, the Ministers responsible for trade and commerce of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye, gathered in Cairo, Egypt, on 2 December 2025 for the Fourth Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC)."

Congratulate the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, particularly the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade led by His Excellency Eng. Hassan ElKhatib, for the excellent preparation and the successful hosting of the 4th D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting (D-8 TMC), and express utmost gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations. Also commend the D-8 Secretariat led by H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam and the team for the hard work done to enhance collaboration among the Contracting Members to boost intra-D-8 trade, including preparing the relevant reports and documents to support our collective efforts to expand the D-8 PTA.

Reaffirming our commitments set out in the Summit Declarations held in Istanbul (1997), Dhaka (1999), Cairo (2001), Tehran (2004), Bali (2006), Kuala Lumpur (2008), Abuja (2010), Islamabad (2012), Istanbul (2017), Dhaka (2021), Cairo (2024), and to the D-8 Decennial Roadmaps for 2008-2018 and 2020-2030.

Strengthening our commitments made in our previous meetings in Abuja (2013), Islamabad (2016), Dhaka (2024), as well as our informal gathering in Istanbul (2024).

Recalling the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA) and the Multilateral Agreement Among D-8 Member Countries on Assistance in Customs Matters (D-8 Customs Agreement), both signed in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 May 2006 and entered into force in 2011.

Recalling also that the Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030 tasks this Council to lead discussions on the benefits of transforming the PTA into a free trade agreement in conjunction with the stipulation of the D-8 PTA for its review for further liberalization.

Bearing in mind that efforts must be redoubled to achieve the intra-D-8 trade target of at least 10 percent of the external trade value of all Member States by 2030, as stipulated in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030.

Being mindful of the tectonic shift in global trade and disruption in global supply and value chains, triggered by geo economic and geo political dynamics, which, in turn, necessitate strengthened resilience and self-sufficiency through economic and trade cooperation.

Recognizing the role of private-sector participation in facilitating and ensuring D-8 cooperation through enhanced trade and commercial activities; accordingly, we affirm the

importance of deepening the sectoral cooperation for deeper private sector involvement in all activities.

do hereby,

1. Take note of the advanced progress undertaken by the Arab Republic of Egypt towards the completion of its national procedures for the ratification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) and acknowledge that Egypt will duly notify the D-8 Secretariat and Member States upon the finalization of the required domestic processes.
2. Welcome the operationalization of the D-8 PTA by Pakistan starting on 1 January 2025, joining Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Türkiye, which have previously done so, signifying the broader application of the PTA within D-8 member states.
3. Encourage the remaining Contracting Members to undertake the necessary procedures in their respective national procedures, including submitting the offer list, issuing the gazette notification, the specimen of the Certificate of Origin, the specimens of stamps and signatures of authorized bodies for issuing the Certificate of Origin, and assigning contact points for the PTA implementation.
4. Encourage Azerbaijan, the latest member of the D-8, to consider accession to D-8 PTA via familiarization with Organization's legal framework and exchange of experience on D-8 PTA's Implementation.
5. Welcome the signing of the Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA by Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye, and call upon the remaining D-8 Member States to sign the Protocol.
6. Adopt the outcome of the 8th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA (SC PTA), hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abuja on 16 June 2025 and appreciates its efforts.
7. Commend the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA in executing its mandate to ensure the implementation of the D-8 PTA, including embarking on the discussion to expand the D-8 PTA, and call upon the Committee to continue its work.
8. Remain in our conviction that the D-8 PTA must be expanded to a broader, more profound, and more comprehensive instrument, weighing all options such as an organization-wide free trade agreement or a comprehensive economic partnership agreement.
9. Task the Experts Working Group to expedite its actions on the Scoping Analysis to Expand the D-8 PTA into a more Progressive Instrument and report its progress regularly to the TMC through the SC PTA.
10. Take note of the outcomes of the Experts Working Group meeting on the proposed expansion of the D-8 PTA and agree that the expansion process shall be accompanied by a thorough analysis and assessment of the current situation, including the progress achieved thus far, the existing gaps, and the readiness levels among Member States.

11. Agree that the scope of the comprehensive instrument shall be refined to focus on a set of priority cooperation areas, to be identified based on the analytical and technical assessments to be undertaken by the Experts Working Group.
12. Task the SC PTA, based on the recommendation of the Working Group, to commence the negotiation process with a view to revisiting the offer list to better implement the D-8 PTA, and seizing the opportunity of the generous offer of the Republic of Türkiye to host the first negotiation meeting for the expansion of the offer lists.
13. Request the D-8 Secretariat, in collaboration with the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) to organize the D-8 Trade Fair and Investment Forum on the sidelines of the D-8 Summit Meetings, aimed at promoting intra-D-8 trade, facilitating business-to-business linkages, and attracting investment opportunities across Member States.
14. Encourage the customs officials of the D-8 Member States to meet regularly to facilitate trade by identifying challenges they face in facilitating and operationalizing the D-8 PTA, particularly in facilitating Customs-related administrative matters.
15. Encourage the Contracting Members to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to better disseminate the information about the D-8 PTA to the business communities, both large businesses and small and medium enterprises.
16. The Council welcomed Türkiye's offer, supported by all Member States, to host the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Istanbul, in collaboration with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB).
17. Welcome the offer by Indonesia to host our 5th TMC, and note that the venue and time to be communicated later through the diplomatic channel.



PROTOCOL TO THE D-8 PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM

PREAMBLE

The Governments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Turkey (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Members"),

RECALLING Article 26 Para 4 of the Preferential Trade Agreement among D-8 Member States done at Bali, Indonesia on 13 May 2006 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") on determining the procedures for the Establishment of Arbitration Panel which shall be annexed to and form an integral part of the Agreement;

RECOGNIZING the need to establish a mechanism which could be supplementary to the procedures defined in Article 26 of the Agreement, to solve the dispute arising in the implementation of the Agreement.

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1 Definitions

For purposes of this Protocol:

- "The Complaining Party" means a contracting member that requests consultation under the agreement;
- "Party Complained Against" means any contracting member to which the request for consultation is made under the agreement;
- "Dispute": means a disagreement between Contracting Members regarding the interpretation and/or application of the Agreement in relation to their rights and obligations
- "Days" shall mean calendar days;
- "Panel" means a Dispute Settlement Arbitration Panel established under Article 8 of this Protocol;
- "Party to the dispute" means the Complaining Party or the Party Complained Against.
- "Consensus" means if no Contracting Member present at the meeting of the Supervisory committee when a decision is taken, formally objects to the decision;
- "Appendix" means an instrument attached to this protocol, which forms an integral part of this protocol. Appendices will be approved by the Supervisory Committee.



Article 2

Objective

The objective of this Protocol is to provide an effective and efficient process for consultations and settlement of disputes arising under the Agreement and to arrive at, where possible, a mutually agreed solution.

Article 3

Scope

Unless otherwise provided in the Agreement, this Protocol shall apply to the settlement of disputes between the Contracting Members regarding the interpretation of, application of, or non-compliance with the provisions of the Agreement.

Article 4

Choice of Forum

1. Where a dispute regarding any matter arises under the Agreement and another international agreement to which the Parties to the dispute are party, the Complaining Party may select the forum in which to settle the dispute.
2. Once the Complaining Party has requested the establishment of a panel under an agreement referred to in paragraph 1, the forum selected shall be used to the exclusion of the other fora in respect of the dispute.

Article 4bis

General Provisions

Unless otherwise specified, any time periods provided for in this Protocol may be modified by the mutual consent of the Parties to the dispute.

Article 5

Consultations

1. Any Contracting Member may request consultations with any other Contracting Member with respect to any matter relating to the interpretation, application of, or non-compliance with the provisions of the Agreement pursuant to Article 3. Contracting Members shall proceed with the consultations in good faith with the aim of reaching a prompt, equitable and mutually agreed solution.

2. The Complaining Party shall submit a written request to the Party Complained Against, stating the reasons for the request, including the identification of the measure at issue and an indication of legal basis for the complaint and provide sufficient information to enable an examination of the matter. A copy of the request for consultations shall be submitted to the Supervisory Committee.

3. The Party Complained Against shall reply within 10 days of its receipt.



4. These consultations shall take place within 30 days after the date of receipt of the request for consultations, and shall be concluded 60 days after the date of receipt of the request, unless Parties to the dispute agree to continue with the consultations.

4bis. Consultations shall take place, unless the Parties to the dispute agree otherwise, in the territory of the Party Complained Against.

5. In case of urgency, the Party Complained Against shall reply within 5 days after the date of receipt of the request. Consultations on matters of urgency, regarding those including perishable goods, shall be held within 15 days after the date of receipt of the request referred to in paragraph 1, and shall be concluded 30 days after the date of receipt of the request, unless the Parties to the dispute agree otherwise.

5bis. In cases of urgency, including those which concern perishable goods, the parties to the dispute, the Supervisory Committee and arbitration panels shall make every effort to accelerate the proceeding to the greatest extent possible.

6. The Parties to the dispute shall make every attempt to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of the matter through consultations under this Article.

6a. Upon initiation of consultations, the Parties to the dispute shall provide information to enable the examination of how the measure at issue might affect the interpretation, and application of, and/or non-compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, and give confidential treatment to the information exchanged during consultations.

6b. Consultations under this Article shall be confidential and without prejudice to the rights of the Parties to the dispute in any further proceedings.

7. In consultations under this Article, a Party to the dispute may request the other Party to the dispute to make available personnel of its government agencies or other regulatory bodies who have expertise in the matter at issue.

8. Without prejudice to any other cases covered under Article 7.1, cases where the Party Complained Against does not respond to the request for consultations or does not enter into consultations in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 5 of this Article, or if the Parties to the dispute are unable to reach a mutually agreed solution through consultations, shall be considered as cases where the Parties to a dispute have failed to resolve the dispute by recourse to the consultations, in terms of the said Article.

Article 6

Good Offices, Conciliation and Mediation

1. The Parties to the dispute may at any time agree to voluntarily undertake an alternative method of dispute resolution, such as good offices, conciliation or mediation. Such alternative method of resolution may begin at any time and be terminated at any time.

2. If the Parties to the dispute agree, good offices, conciliation or mediation may continue while the dispute proceeds for resolution before an Arbitration Panel under Article 8.



3. Proceedings involving good offices, mediation and conciliation and positions taken by the Parties to the dispute during these proceedings, shall be confidential and without prejudice to the rights of either Parties to the dispute in any other proceedings.

Article 7

Supervisory Committee Intervention

1. Where the Parties to a dispute have failed to resolve the dispute by recourse to the consultations as provided for in Article 5 the Complaining Party may request in writing the Supervisory Committee to settle the dispute within thirty (30) days on an ad-referendum basis or through extraordinary meeting, and a copy of the request shall be sent to the D8 Secretariat and the Contracting members. Such meetings shall be held at the D-8 Secretariat.
2. The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall indicate whether consultations were held, and shall include sufficient information to enable an examination of the measure at issue, and the legal basis in relation with the dispute.
3. The Supervisory Committee shall receive the submissions of each party no later than 10 days from the receipt of the request referred to in paragraph 1.
4. In the event that the Supervisory Committee produces a mutually agreed solution to the dispute, the Parties to the dispute may request the Supervisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the implementing measures to be taken by the Party Complained Against, and the timeframe for doing so. Such recommendations shall be expressed in writing which shall be distributed promptly to the Parties to the dispute.
5. In case the dispute is not settled, the Complaining Party may request in writing from the Supervisory Committee the establishment of the Arbitration Panel.

Article 8

Establishment of Arbitration Panel

1. The request for the establishment of the Arbitration Panel shall be made in writing to the Party Complained Against and the Supervisory Committee. The Complaining Party shall identify in the request for the establishment of the Arbitration Panel, the specific measure at issue, the legal basis of the complaint including any provision of the Agreement alleged to have been breached and any other relevant provisions and the factual basis for the complaint and shall indicate whether a consultation under Article 5 or whether a Supervisory Committee meeting under Article 26 of the PTA Agreement was held.
2. The Arbitration Panel shall be composed of three arbitrators. Each Party to the dispute shall appoint one arbitrator, who may be its national, within 30 days of the date of the receipt of the request for the establishment of the Panel. The Parties to the dispute shall



agree on and appoint the third arbitrator, who shall be the chairperson of the Arbitration Panel, within 45 days of the date of the request for the establishment of the Arbitration Panel. If the chairperson of the Arbitration Panel has not been designated by the Parties to the dispute within 15 days of the appointment of the second arbitrator, either Party to the dispute may request the Supervisory Committee to appoint the third arbitrator to chair the Arbitration Panel from the list of arbitrators, established in accordance with paragraph 3.

3. The D-8 Secretariat shall establish and maintain a list of arbitrators no later than 6 months after the entry into force of this Protocol. The Secretariat shall consult with the Contracting parties while establishing this list. The Contracting Members may propose individuals to serve as arbitrators to be added to this list.
4. The chairperson of the Arbitration Panel shall not be a national of any Party to the dispute nor a resident nor an employee of any Party to the dispute and must not have dealt with the matter before in any capacity, whatsoever.
5. The appointments provided for in this Article shall be notified to the Parties to the dispute and to the Secretariat.
6. All arbitrators shall have specialized knowledge or experience in law and international trade or other matters relating to the Agreement or in the resolution of disputes arising under international trade agreements. They shall be independent, serve in their individual capacities and not take instructions from any organization or government, or be affiliated with the government of any of the Parties to the dispute.
7. After accepting their appointment and before beginning their work, the arbitrators shall sign the Statement of Agreement contained in Appendix 1 (Code of Conduct for Arbitrators of the Arbitration Panel). The Contracting Parties ~~shall~~ prepare Code of Conduct for Arbitrators of the Arbitration Panel (Appendix 1) within one year after the entry into force of this Protocol. The Code of Conduct for Arbitrators of the Arbitration Panel shall be modified or amended subject to the agreement of the Member States thereto.
8. The date of establishment of the Arbitration Panel shall be the date as of when the Statements of Agreement have been signed by the three arbitrators.
9. If an arbitrator appointed under this Article becomes unable to participate in the proceeding or resigns, a successor shall be selected within 10 days in accordance with the selection procedure followed to select that arbitrator.
10. If a disputing party believes that a panellist is in violation of the code of conduct, then the disputing parties shall consult the Supervisory Committee, and if Supervisory Committee agrees, the panellist shall be removed and a new panellist shall be appointed in his/her place within 10 days of such removal.



Article 9

Procedures for Multiple Complainants

1. Where more than one Contracting Member requests the establishment of a panel related to the same matter, a single panel may be established to examine these complaints taking into account the rights of all Contracting Members concerned. A single panel should be established to examine such complaints whenever feasible.
2. Any action taken under paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the Contracting Members' rights and obligations stipulated under the provisions of the Agreement.

Article 10

Functions and Proceedings of the Arbitration Panel

1. The function of an Arbitration Panel is to make an objective assessment of the matter before it, including an examination of the facts of the case and the applicability of and conformity with the Agreement, and make such other findings and rulings necessary for the resolution of the dispute referred to it.
2. Arbitration Panels shall interpret the Agreement in accordance with customary rules of interpretation of public international law.
3. Arbitration Panel meetings shall be closed to the public, unless the Parties to the dispute decide otherwise.
4. Each Party to the dispute shall be given the opportunity to provide at least one written submission and to attend any of the presentations, statements or rebuttals in the proceedings. All information or written submissions submitted by a Party to the dispute to the Arbitration Panel, including any comments on the interim report and responses to questions put by the Arbitration Panel, shall be made available to the other Party to the dispute.
5. A Party to the dispute asserting that a measure of the other Party to the dispute is inconsistent with the Agreement shall have the burden of establishing such inconsistency. A Party to the dispute asserting that a measure is subject to an exception under the Agreement shall have the burden of establishing that the exception applies.
6. The Arbitration Panel should consult with the Parties to the dispute as appropriate and provide adequate opportunities for the development of a mutually satisfactory resolution.
7. The Arbitration Panel shall make every effort to take any decision by consensus. Where, nevertheless, a decision cannot be arrived at by consensus, the matter at issue shall be decided by majority vote. The vote of the Arbitration Panel shall be confidential and no dissenting opinion shall be expressed.
8. On request of a Party to the dispute or on its own initiative and subject to such terms and conditions as the Parties to the dispute may agree within 10 days of the date of establishment of the Arbitration Panel, the Arbitration Panel may seek information from any relevant source



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and may consult experts to obtain their opinion or advice on certain aspects of the matter. The Arbitration Panel shall provide the Parties to the dispute with a copy of any advice or opinion obtained and an opportunity to provide comments. Where the Arbitration Panel takes the information or technical advice into account in the preparation of its report, it shall also address any comments by the Parties to the dispute on the information or technical advice.

9. The Arbitration Panel may, after consulting the Parties to the dispute, adopt additional rules of procedure not inconsistent with the rules adopted by the Supervisory Committee.

10. The Arbitration Panel shall apply the Rules of Procedure, which include the rights to hearings and the exchange of written submissions as well as deadlines and timetables for ensuring expediency, as set out in Appendix 2. The Rules of Procedure shall be modified or amended subject to the agreement of the Member States thereto. The Contracting Parties shall prepare Rules of Procedure of the Arbitration Panel (Appendix 2) within one year after the entry into force of this Protocol.

Article 11

Interim Report Stage

The Arbitration Panel shall issue an interim report to the Parties to the dispute setting out the findings of the fact, applicability of relevant provisions and the basic rationale behind any findings and recommendations that it makes, as a general rule, not later than [120] days from the date of establishment of the Arbitration Panel. Any Party to the dispute may submit a written request for the Arbitration Panel to review precise aspects of the interim report within 15 days of its notification. The findings of the final Arbitration Panel ruling shall include a discussion of the arguments made at the interim review stage.

Article 12

Suspension and Termination of Proceedings

1. The Parties to the dispute may agree that the Arbitration Panel suspends its work at any time for a period not exceeding 12 months from the date of such agreement. Within this period, the suspended arbitral proceeding shall be resumed upon the request of any Party to the dispute. If the work of the Arbitration Panel has been continuously suspended for more than 12 months, the authority for establishment of the Arbitration Panel shall lapse unless the Parties to the dispute agree otherwise.

2. The Parties to the dispute may agree to terminate the proceedings of an Arbitration Panel in the event that a mutually satisfactory solution to the dispute has been found.

3. Before the Arbitration Panel presents its final report, it may at any stage of the proceedings propose to the Parties to the dispute that the dispute be settled amicably.

4. The Parties to the dispute shall notify the other Contracting Members that the Arbitration Panel has been suspended, terminated or its authority has lapsed pursuant to paragraph 1.



Article 13

Arbitration Panel Report

1. The Arbitration Panel shall issue its report containing its findings and conclusions to the Parties to the dispute, as a general rule not later than three months from the date of establishment of the Arbitration Panel. If the Arbitration Panel cannot issue its report within this period, it may extend that period to a maximum of five months from the date of establishment of the Arbitration Panel.
2. When the Arbitration Panel considers that it cannot issue its report within one and half month in cases of urgency, it shall inform the Parties to the dispute in writing of the reasons for the delay together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report. In no case the issuance of the award shall exceed two months.
3. The report of the Arbitration Panel shall be final and binding on the Parties to the dispute.
4. The deliberations of the Arbitration Panel and the documents submitted to it shall be kept confidential.
5. The Arbitration Panel shall make every effort to take any decision by consensus. Where, nevertheless, a decision cannot be arrived at by consensus, the matter at issue shall be decided by majority vote. The vote of the Arbitration Panel shall be confidential and no dissenting opinion shall be expressed.
6. Where the arbitration panel concludes that measure at issue is inconsistent with the Agreement, it shall recommend that the Party Complained Against bring the measure into conformity with the Agreement. In addition to its recommendation, the Arbitration Panel may suggest ways in which the Party Complained Against could implement the recommendations.

Article 14

Compliance with the arbitration panel rulings

1. Each Party shall take any measure necessary to comply with the arbitration panel rulings, and the Parties will endeavour to agree on the period of time to comply with the rulings.
2. No later than 30 days after the receipt of the notification of the arbitration panel report to the Parties, the Party Complained Against shall notify the Complaining Party and the Supervisory committee of the time it will require for compliance (reasonable period of time), if immediate compliance is not possible.
3. If there is disagreement between the Parties on the reasonable period of time to comply with the arbitration panel rulings, the Complaining Party shall, within 20 days of the receipt of the notification made under paragraph 2 by the Party Complained Against, request, in writing, the arbitration panel to determine the length of the reasonable period of time. Such request shall be notified simultaneously to the other Party and to the Supervisory committee. The arbitration panel shall notify its decision to the Parties and to the Supervisory Committee within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request.



4. The reasonable period of time may be extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.
5. The Party Complained Against shall notify the Complaining Party and the Supervisory Committee before the end of the reasonable period of time of any measure that it has taken to comply with the arbitration panel rulings.

Article 15

Compensation and the Suspension of Concessions

1. If the Party Complained Against fails to notify any measure taken to comply with the arbitration panel rulings before the expiry of the reasonable period of time, or if the arbitration panel rules, upon the request of either Party, that the measure notified under Article 14 is inconsistent with that Party's obligations under the provisions referred to in Article 3, the Party Complained Against shall, if so, requested by the Complaining Party, present an offer for temporary compensation.
2. If no agreement on compensation is reached within 30 days after the end of the reasonable period of time or of the arbitration panel rulings under Article 14 that a measure taken to comply is inconsistent with the provisions referred to in Article 3, the Complaining Party shall be entitled, upon notification to the other Party and to the Supervisory Committee, to suspend obligations arising from any provision referred to in Article 3. The Complaining Party may implement the suspension 15 days after the date of receipt of the notification by the Party Complained Against.
3. The suspension of obligations shall be temporary and shall be applied only until any measure found to be inconsistent with the provisions referred to in Article 3 has been withdrawn or amended so as to bring it into conformity with those provisions or until the Parties have agreed to settle the dispute. The level of the suspension of concessions shall be equivalent to the level of the nullification or impairment.

Article 16

Entry into force

This Protocol shall enter into force thirty days following the date on which D-8 Secretariat, the depository, has received the instruments of ratification by at least four Member States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol

DONE at Istanbul, Türkiye on the 11th day of June 2024 in the English language in one original copy.



For the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. M Amanul Haq
Bangladesh Ambassador to Türkiye

For the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E. Hassan Mohamed ELKHATIB
Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia

H. E. DR. Zulkifli Hasan
Minister of Trade

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Mahdi Zeighami
Deputy minister of Industry, Mine and Trade

For the Government of Malaysia

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For the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

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For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan


.....
Jam Kamal Khan
Minister for Commerce

For the Government of the Republic of Türkiye



H.E. Dr. Ömer SOLAT
Minister of Trade

**Closing Remarks by the Secretary-General of the
Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation,
at the 4th Trade Ministers' Council, Cairo, 2 December
2025**

Esteemed Chair,

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies,

Distinguished Heads of Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we draw the curtain, on this important meeting, allow me to, once again, express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency, **Eng. Hassan ElKhatib**, Honorable Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his exemplary leadership, as Chair of this Session.

I also extend my deepest gratitude, to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and particularly the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, for the excellent arrangements,

and warm hospitality, extended to all delegations, since our arrival.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

No doubt, the successful adoption of the **2025 D-8 Cairo Trade Declaration**, provide a clear direction, for advancing trade integration, across our Member States. By this Declaration, we have reaffirmed our shared resolve, to modernise the PTA, and build a trading architecture, that is responsive, to global dynamics, and aligned, with our 2030 Roadmap.

Permit me, **Excellencies**, to reiterate further, that the success of our trade cooperation, rests on the active engagement, of all Member States. For this purpose, I therefore, call for sustained dialogue, both at the Ministerial and technical levels, to enable us unlock the full potential of our trade cooperation, and create a more prosperous D-8 bloc.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies; As I had informed you earlier, in my opening address, I will be stepping down, as the Secretary General of the D-8, at the end of my term, on 1 January 2026. I seize this opportunity to, once again, express my immense appreciation to all member states, for their support and cooperation, during my tenure.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies

I thank you for your contributions, throughout this meeting, and my best wishes, to you all.