



A quarterly newsletter of the

D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



This issue's highlight:

D-8 PARTICIPATED IN THE 3rd SHUSHA GLOBAL MEDIA FORUM

SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED ECO SUMMIT IN AZERBAIJAN

D-8 ORGANIZED WEBINAR ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

D-8 ATTENDED THE RECEPTION HOSTED BY GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL

SME BODIES OF D-8 MEMBER STATES MET VIRTUALLY

SECRETARY-GENERAL MET MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF TÜRKİYE AND VISITED TEKNOFEST 2025

The Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, has made an appeal to the Government of Türkiye to increase its cooperation in industry and technology, with member countries of the organization, as a way of reactivating the sector, for better performance.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished Readers,

I am delighted to present the Third Edition of the D-8 Newsletter for 2025, which reflects the continuing advancement of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, as we strengthen cooperation and deepen partnerships, in pursuit of shared prosperity. Over recent years, D-8 Secretariat has remained fully engaged in pursuing the key priority objectives of our organization, through dynamic initiatives, high-level diplomacy, and capacity-enhancing activities, across multiple sectors of our mandate.

This quarter has highlighted our ongoing collaborations with regional and international partners. Thus, our participation in the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, further reaffirmed the close cooperation between D-8 and the Economic Cooperation Organization, which is rooted in our shared mission to empower economies of member states, enhance connectivity, and promote sustainable development. This has also allowed us to engage with the leaders on policies and opportunities, that can accelerate intra-regional trade and investment.

Unrelenting in our efforts to increase the visibility of our organization, we have witnessed growing recognition of the D-8 at major international platforms, such as the Shusha Global Media Forum, held in Azerbaijan. This engagement not only strengthened our outreach in the media, but provided avenue to highlight our development achievements and strategic economic potential to a global audience.

Equally important were the high-level bilateral meetings conducted during this quarter with ministers, ambassadors, and institutional leaders from member states and partners. These interactions have also paved the way for renewed momentum in the priority cooperation areas including, trade facilitation, industrial development, technological innovation, and private sector engagement. For instance, discussions held with Türkiye on revitalizing industrial cooperation – particularly through innovative platforms such as TEKNOFEST – underscore our ambition to leverage technological progress and entrepreneurship, as key drivers of our collective economic transformation.



However, we will continue to place strong emphasis on fostering inclusive development that benefits all communities, within our Member States. Guided by this principle, the Secretariat and partners, have organized programs at addressing critical socio-economic issues, such as youth mental health, while recognizing the fact that today's youth are central to building resilient and future-ready societies. The engagement of SME governmental bodies, in advancing the operationalization of the D-8 SME Center in Abuja, also reflects our commitment to supporting small and medium enterprises – the engines of job creation and innovation across our economies.

As we move forward, D-8 remains focused on delivering practical outcomes and ensuring greater visibility of our achievements. This include intensifying our project-based collaboration, strengthening institutional partnerships, and ensuring that they are impactful and responsive to the expectations of our Member States. Together, we are expanding economic opportunities, enhancing productive capabilities, and building stronger bridges between governments, businesses, and communities, across the D-8 family.

I express my sincere appreciation to all Member States, stakeholders, and partners, who continue to support and champion our mission. Your contributions have ensured that the D-8 Organization remains an active force for economic empowerment, technological progress, and sustainable growth.

I look forward to our continued efforts, guided by unity, innovation, and a shared aspiration to advance a brighter future for the 1.2 billion citizens of our Member States. Let us move with confidence and determination – together – toward a more prosperous D-8 community and a stronger voice in the global economic landscape.

Warm regards,

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary-General

SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED ECO SUMMIT IN AZERBAIJAN



Upon the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov, the Secretary-General of the D-8, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, accompanied by Directors of D-8, Ambassador Mustafa Özcan and Mr. Punjul Nugraha, attended the 17th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit held in Khankendi, Azerbaijan from 3-4 July 2025.

The Secretary-General's participation reflects the strong partnership between the two inter-governmental organizations, in line with their MoU, which serves as a valuable platform for high-level engagements and dialogue for enhancing economic cooperation, among their member states.

D-8 SG MET WITH MINISTER OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING OF NIGERIA

On the sidelines of the 17th Economic Cooperation Organization Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, met with the Minister of Budget and Economic Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, on 3 July 2025.



The meeting between the Minister and the SG focused on the D-8 Organization's activities and other ways to further strengthen its effectiveness and impact, among Member States.

DIRECTOR OF D-8 REPRESENTED THE D-8 SECRETARY GENERAL AT OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED BY PRESIDENCY OF TÜRKİYE



Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director of the D-8 Organization, represented the D-8 Secretary General, at the official dinner hosted by the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, in honor of H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 29 July 2025, at the Presidential Complex in Ankara.

The event brought together senior government officials, members of the state protocol, representatives of international organizations, and diplomatic missions. Ambassador Özcan engaged in productive exchanges with several high-level dignitaries from Türkiye and abroad. Also, the event served as an excellent networking opportunity to further promote the visibility and outreach of the D-8 Organization.

D-8 SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 3rd SHUSHA GLOBAL MEDIA FORUM

The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) participated in the 3rd Shusha Global Media Forum held in Shusha, Azerbaijan from 19 to 21 July 2025. The Organization was represented by Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director-I of the D-8, and Mr. İlham Uludag, Media and Protocol Officer.



The Forum, convened under the theme "Digital Pathways: Strengthening Information and Media Resilience in the Age of AI", brought together more than 400 participants from over 50 countries, including senior government officials, media professionals, academics, and private sector representatives.

On 19 July, 2025, the high-level session of the forum began, where participants engaged in a three-hour interactive exchange with H.E. İlham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who responded to questions on various regional and global issues. Notably, President Aliyev highlighted Azerbaijan's accession to the D-8 Organization, stating:

"Another important factor emphasizing the authority of Azerbaijan is the fact that we became the first and only country to become a new member of the D-8 Organization. The organization, which was once created on the initiative of Türkiye, Pakistan, Egypt and now brings together the eight largest countries of the Muslim world both in terms of population and potential, had never accepted new members since its creation many decades ago. Azerbaijan was the only one to be accepted unanimously."



Also, on 20 July, 2025 Mr. Hikmet Hajiyev, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration, delivered his opening address at the forum. The day's programme included the panel discussion on "Innovative Approaches: Media Literacy in the Digital Age", where experts discussed contemporary strategies to strengthen public understanding and critical consumption of digital content.

The final day, 21 July, included two panel sessions and one one-on-one discussion.



Panel 2, “Media Literacy as the Guarantee of Information Security”, emphasized the vital role of media literacy in combating disinformation and maintaining information integrity in the digital landscape.

Panel 3, “How Social Media Evolution Affects Public Trust: Embracing Media Literacy”, examined the impact of evolving digital platforms on public trust and the importance of promoting critical thinking skills, in online environments.

During the One-on-One Session, Mr. Claus Strunz, CEO of Euronews, shared his insights under the title “Journalism in the AI Era: Preserving Truth Amid Automation”, reflecting on the ethical and operational challenges facing journalism, in the age of artificial intelligence.

The D-8 delegation, led by Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, held bilateral meetings with Azerbaijani officials, including Mr. Hikmet Hajiyev, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, where they discussed the D-8’s ongoing activities and how to explore areas to enhance cooperation between Azerbaijan and the D-8 Organization.

Ambassador Özcan also met with Mr. Ahmed Ismayilov, Executive Director of the Media Development Agency of Azerbaijan. They exchanged views on possible means of advancing cooperation between the two institutions, especially in the area of media and mass communication.

Indeed, the Forum provided a valuable platform for the D-8 to enhance its visibility, engage with key international stakeholders, and keep abreast of developments in global media.

AMBASSADOR IMAM RECEIVED COMMERCIAL CONSUL OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF EGYPT IN ISTANBUL

The D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, received in audience the Commercial Consul of the Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Istanbul, Mr. Ali Mohamed Basha, along with his delegation, on 9 July 2025.



During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on preparation for the upcoming 4th D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC) Meeting, scheduled to hold in Cairo, Egypt. Their discussion also focused on possible sideline events, such as D-8 Business Forum, that could be organized during the 4th TMC, to enhance private sector engagement and trade promotion, among Member States. Additionally, the current status of Egypt’s ratification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) was reviewed, as part of the broader efforts, to accelerate intra-D-8 trade and economic cooperation. The visit reaffirmed the commitment of both the D-8 Secretariat and the Government of Egypt to deepening collaboration in the field of trade and economic development, within the D-8 framework.

AMBASSADOR ÖZCAN ATTENDED WORKING BREAKFAST WITH AMBASSADORS OF D-8 MEMBER STATES IN ANKARA



Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director-I of the D-8 Secretariat, attended a working breakfast meeting with the Ambassadors and Heads of Delegations of D8 Member States hosted by Ambassador Aylın Sekizkök, D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters in Ankara, on 22 August.

Discussions at the meeting focused on proposed reforms at the D8 Organization, enhancing the Organization's visibility, strengthening project-based cooperation, and fostering deeper collaboration, within the D-8 family.

Ambassador Mustafa Özcan also met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Ambassador Berris Ekinci, and Director General of International Agreements and the European Union at the Ministry of Trade, Mr. Hüsni Dilemre, for consultations.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED INDONESIAN FESTIVAL IN ISTANBUL

Upon the invitation from Honourable Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Istanbul, Mr. Darianto Harsono, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the "Indonesian Festival" to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Indonesian Independence Day, held in Istanbul on 22 August 2025.



DIRECTOR OF D-8 REPRESENTED THE D-8 SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE RECEPTION HOSTED BY GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL, ON VICTORY DAY

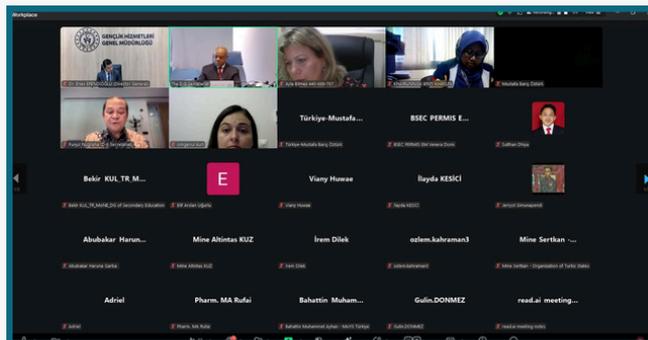


Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, represented the D-8 Secretary General at the reception hosted by the Governorship of Istanbul, at Sepetçiler Palace on the occasion of the 103rd Anniversary of the 30 August Victory Day, on 30 August 2025.

The D-8 Organization extended its warm congratulations to the Government and the people of Türkiye on the historic day, which symbolizes resilience, unity, and the spirit of independence.

D-8 ORGANIZED WEBINAR ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Cognizance of the important role of the youth in shaping the future, the D-8, in collaboration with the Alice Agada Foundation of Nigeria and the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme (D-8HSP), organized a webinar on “Youth Mental Health”, through a virtual channel on 9 September 2025.



In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of healthy environment for the youth to contribute to the overall development of the society, which also include putting a mechanism in place for an early warning system to detect and prevent any severe impact posed by mental health to the well-being of the youth.

The Director General of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Türkiye, delivered a keynote address during the webinar, while remarks were also made by the Chairperson of Alice Agada Foundation, Ms Alice Agada, as well as the Global Director, D8 Health and Social Protection Programme, Dr. Ado Muhammed.

Five Experts from the D-8 Member States presented their respective strategies, measures, and steps to address youth mental health, during the webinar. More than 130 participants, including Representatives from the D-8’s partner organizations, were also in attendance.

SME GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF D-8 MEMBER STATES MET VIRTUALLY



The SME governmental bodies, from the D-8 Member States, held their 8th Meeting on 10 September, 2025. The meeting was hosted virtually by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) of Pakistan.

The Meeting, which was chaired by the CEO of SMEDA and facilitated by the D-8 Secretariat, discussed strategies to strengthen cooperation in SME development, following the establishment and launching of the D-8 SME Center in Abuja, Nigeria, last June.

In his remarks, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, underlined SMEs’ central role in improving the economic performance of the D-8 Member States. He called for strong support of Member States for the SME Center in Abuja, to enable it achieve the objectives, for which it was established.

Ambassador Imam noted that the SME Governmental Bodies would play a crucial role in driving the strategic direction of D8’s SME cooperation. He welcomed the decision of the Bodies to meet regularly, at least twice a year, to monitor the effectiveness of the work plan in SME development, across the D-8 member states.

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE BREAKFAST WORKSHOP ON ISDS REFORM IN ACTION: OIC PATH FORWARD



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the breakfast workshop on “ISDS Reform in Action: OIC Path Forward”, organized by the OIC Arbitration Center (OIC-AC) in Istanbul, on 18 September 2025.

Attended upon the invitation from Dr. Umar Oseni, the OIC-AC Secretary-General, the D-8 SG contributed to the discussion on the future of investor-state dispute settlement, a part of the reform in global investment treaties.

The D-8 SG also took cognizance of the ISDS reforms, considering that the D-8 also has vast investment potential that could be leveraged, on to attract more Foreign Direct Investments to the member states.

SECRETARY-GENERAL MET MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF TÜRKİYE AND VISITED TEKNOFEST 2025

The Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, has made an appeal to the Government of Türkiye to increase its cooperation in industry and technology, with member countries of the organization, as a way of reactivating the sector, for better performance.



Ambassador Imam stated this during a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Mehmet Fatih Kacır, held on 17 September 2025, on the sidelines of the TEKNOFEST 2025 (Aerospace and Technology Festival), which took place from 17 to 21 September 2025, at the Atatürk Airport, Istanbul, Türkiye.

He opined that Türkiye, as a leading D-8 Member State, in the field of industry and technology, could play a critical role in reactivating D-8 industrial cooperation, by hosting the next D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry. He suggested that inviting the relevant Ministers of Member States to the next TEKNOFEST could serve as a valuable platform to advance cooperation in technology and innovation, amongst the alliance of nations.

Speaking further, he underlined industry as one of the priority sectors of the organization. However, he noted that no ministerial-level activities had taken place, since the last D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry held in 2017 in Abuja, Nigeria.

In his own remarks, the Minister of Industry of Türkiye explained the motive behind the TEKNOFEST initiative, noting that the event has been organized since 2018 and had taken place in different cities across Türkiye, as well as in partner countries, including the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He stated that the event had attracted more than 10,000 international guests.



The Minister emphasized that technological independence and self-sufficiency are vital in today's world. Minister Kacir further highlighted that the Ministry has supported more than 300,000 research and development (R&D) activities by building the necessary infrastructure, thus promoting new companies working in technology and innovation. He said that investment in technology and R&D had grown from USD 1.2 billion to approximately USD 16 billion, through these initiatives. Türkiye, he stressed, is steadily increasing its independence in the high-tech sector, particularly in the defense industry, where the localization rate had risen from 20% to 85%. He added that value-added projects are being accelerated in various fields such as game-tech, energy-tech, and other emerging technologies.



The Minister also seized the opportunity of this year's event to reaffirm Türkiye's commitment to supporting D-8 activities. He expressed readiness to consider hosting the next D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Industry, adding that Türkiye has vast experience, capabilities, and resources in the field of technology, which she was ready to share with fellow member countries.

In his remark, the Director at the D-8 Secretariat, Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, emphasized that project-based meetings and joint initiatives will play a crucial role in strengthening collaboration, among the D-8 Member States.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Imam and members of his delegation, visited the booth of leading Turkish technology and innovation companies, including ASELSAN, BAYKAR, and TUSAŞ. These companies are 'big players' in Türkiye's industrial sector, with significant presence in the global market. During the visit, the representative of the companies briefed the Secretary General on the flagship projects, and other innovative products that are contributing to Türkiye's technological independence and global competitiveness.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



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