



A quarterly newsletter of the

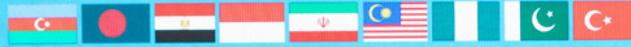
D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



D-8 MEDIA FORUM

FOSTERING DIALOGUE, COLLABORATION, AND REGIONAL COHESION

21 November 2025 | Baku, Azerbaijan



This issue's highlight:

D-8 COMMISSIONERS' RETREAT MEETING WAS HELD IN BAKU

50th SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION HELD IN CAIRO

THE FIRST D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HEALTH WAS HELD IN CAIRO

D-8 CONVENED ITS 4TH MEETING OF TRADE MINISTERS COUNCIL IN CAIRO

D-8 YOUTH DIALOGUE 2025 CONCLUDED IN BAKU

HISTORIC FIRST D-8 MEDIA FORUM CONVENED IN BAKU, ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE MEDIA DEVELOPMENT, ACROSS MEMBER STATES

The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) successfully convened the First D-8 Media Forum in Baku on 21 November 2025, hosted by the Media Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Forum was attended by senior officials from relevant media authorities of member states, representatives of media institutions, editors, journalists, and communication experts from all D-8 Member States, under the theme: "Fostering Dialogue, Collaboration, and Regional Cohesion."



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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Fourth Edition of the D-8 Newsletter to our ardent readers. Indeed, this last publication of the year is very significant. Firstly, it is well-packed with activities that reflect the renewed momentum, growing visibility, and strengthened cooperation, among the D-8 Member States.

Secondly, this is my last message to you, our Readers, as I prepare to step down, following the expiration of my tenure as the Secretary General of this noble Organization, effectively on 1 January 2026. It has been an immense privilege for me to be at the helm of affairs of this Organization, in the last four years. I seize this opportunity to thank all of you, for your support, understanding and cooperation.

However, the events and initiatives highlighted, in this edition, aptly demonstrate our collective determination to advance the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020-2030) and to translate political commitment, into tangible outcomes for our peoples.

During this period, the Organization successfully convened several high-level statutory, ministerial, and sectoral meetings. The D-8 Commissioners' Retreat in Baku, provided a valuable informal platform for strategic reflection, forward-looking dialogue, and consensus-building approach, on institutional reform and operational efficiency of the Secretariat. This was followed by the 50th Session of the D-8 Commission, thus reinforcing the central role of the Commission, in guiding the Organization's works.

However, a major milestone was achieved with the convening of the First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Health in Cairo, where Ministers adopted the Cairo Declaration on Health Cooperation, laying a comprehensive foundation for enhanced collaboration in public health, pharmaceutical manufacturing, digital health, and system resilience. This historic gathering underscored the importance of collective action, in addressing shared health challenges, across our regions.

Equally significant was the successful organization of the First D-8 Media Forum in Baku, which marked a new chapter in strengthening cooperation, among media institutions of Member States. The adoption of the Baku Declaration on Collaborative Media Development, and the positive response of the D-8 Media Excellence Center initiative by the member states, reflect our shared recognition of the strategic role of the media in fostering dialogue, countering misinformation, and enhancing the visibility of the D-8.



While economic cooperation remained at the core of our organization's agenda, the 4th Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, held in Cairo, reaffirmed Member States' strong commitment to deepening trade integration, operationalizing and expanding the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement, and advancing towards more comprehensive trade partnership. These efforts are vital to unlocking the vast economic potential of our combined markets and achieving intra-D-8 trade targets.

The Organization also continued to place strong emphasis on new initiatives like youth, climate action, and sustainable urban development. The D-8 Youth Dialogue 2025 in Baku empowered young leaders from across Member States, and culminated in the adoption of the Baku Youth Declaration, thus reaffirming youth, as key agents of innovation and sustainable development. In parallel, the High-Level Climate and Urban Dialogue advanced discussions on aligning climate and urban action with the Decennial Roadmap, highlighting practical pathways, for resilient and inclusive growth.

Beyond these flagship events, the Secretariat actively strengthened external relations, participated in key international forums, and pursued partnerships with regional and international organizations, further positioning the D-8 as a constructive and credible actor, in the global economic cooperation landscape.

As we look ahead to the coming year, the D-8 Secretariat remains fully committed to working closely with Member States, affiliated bodies, and partners to ensure effective follow-up, implementation, and delivery of agreed decisions and initiatives.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Governments of our Member States, host countries of our affiliated bodies, and all partners for their continued support and cooperation. I also commend the dedication and professionalism of the D-8 Secretariat staff, in advancing the Organization's mission.

On behalf of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, I wish all our readers, partners, and stakeholders a Happy New Year, filled with peace, prosperity, good health, and renewed determination, to strengthen solidarity and cooperation within the D-8 family.

Warm regards,

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary-General

STATUTORY MEETINGS

D-8 COMMISSIONERS' RETREAT MEETING WAS HELD IN BAKU



The strategic informal Retreat for D-8 Commissioners of Member States was held on 16 October 2025 and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The primary aim of the retreat was to foster an open exchange of views and ideas on key organizational issues and to collectively explore new approaches, for strengthening the cooperation framework of the D-8 Organization.

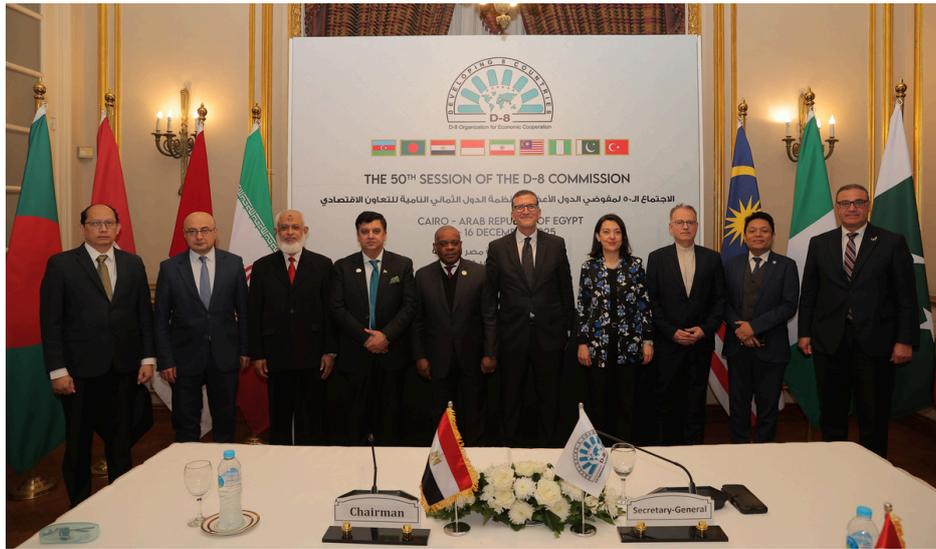
In his remarks, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, presented an overview of the Organization's recent activities, achievements, and ongoing initiatives, across multiple sectors. He outlined flagship initiatives and projects launched by the D-8 Secretariat, aimed at enhancing intra-D-8 economic integration, fostering private-sector involvement, and promoting youth in the D-8 development agenda. He emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum toward the effective implementation of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020-2030), which serves as a strategic guide, for achieving the Organization's long-term vision of inclusive, innovative, and sustainable economic growth.

During the Retreat, D-8 Commissioners engaged in extensive brainstorming sessions and exchanged views to identify effective strategies and practical mechanisms to advance the Organization's objectives. They also shared their views, comments, and recommendations on key issues related to institutional efficiency, project implementation, and cooperation enhancement. The Commissioners provided valuable insights, on aligning the D-8's collective efforts with the emerging global economic and environmental agenda, particularly in the areas of trade, technology, and sustainable development.



The meeting further underscored the need to enhance the operational, financial and administrative capacity of the D-8 Secretariat, strengthen Member States' engagement in ongoing projects, and expand partnerships with international and regional organizations, to achieve the goals, set under the Decennial Roadmap. In this context, it was resolved to establish a Committee on Reform, to enhance the efficiency of the Organization.

50TH SESSION OF THE D-8 COMMISSION WAS HELD IN CAIRO



The 50th Session of the D-8 Commission, was held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt from 15- 16 December 2025, and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The meeting was attended by D-8 Commissioners and high-level representatives from D-8 Member States, thus underscoring the importance of D-8 platform, as a mechanism for advancing economic cooperation, amongst its Member States.

During the two-day Session, participants reviewed progress report of the Organization's activities, since the 49th Commission meeting and exchanged views on a broad range of issues related to D-8 cooperation agenda. The discussions covered such areas as, institutional, administrative, and sectoral matters, as well as other initiatives, aimed at strengthening collaborations, among Member States of the organization.



The Commission also discussed future programs and activities of the D-8, and considered ways to enhance effectiveness and visibility of the Organization, in line with its objectives of promoting sustainable development, economic growth, and mutual benefits, among the Member States.

The Session concluded with a reaffirmation of the collective commitment of D-8 Member States to further deepen cooperation, strengthen institutional coordination, and promote shared economic agenda of the Organization.

MINISTERIAL AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

THE FIRST D-8 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HEALTH CONVENED IN CAIRO AND ADOPTED LANDMARK DECLARATION



The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) convened its First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Health, on 19 November 2025 in Cairo, hosted by the Ministry of Health and Population of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Health Ministers and high-level representatives from relevant authorities of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye attended the meeting, which held under the theme “Innovation, Equity, and Resilience,” to advance collective action for stronger, fairer, and more resilient health systems, across the D-8 regions.

The D-8 Secretary-General, His Excellency Ambassador Imam, in his statement, noted that the D-8 represents more than 1.2 billion people—over 15 percent of the global population, yet faces significant health challenges, that demand coordinated action. Referring to recent analytical work, he indicated that “life expectancy in the D-8 region remains below global average, the adult mortality rate is still high, and non-communicable diseases are responsible, for an increasing share of premature deaths.” He stressed that these indicators underscore the urgency of strengthening the health systems, improving prevention, and enhancing the resilience of public-health capacities, across Member States.

He also encouraged Member States to explore innovative programs, including a D-8 Joint Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Vaccine Cooperation Program, a D-8 Healthy Lifestyles and Risk-Reduction Campaign, and a D-8 Maternal and Child Health Strategy—to complement national efforts and respond directly to regional health needs.

During the Ministerial deliberations, Health Ministers and representatives from Member States held extensive exchanges on national priorities and shared challenges. They emphasized the importance of building resilient and equitable public health systems capable of responding to emerging and re-emerging threats, improving communicable and non-communicable disease control, strengthening surveillance and laboratory systems, and investing in the health workforce. They also expressed strong commitment to advancing Universal Health Coverage and expanding access to quality primary healthcare.

The Meeting highlighted the critical need to adopt a comprehensive One Health approach, enhance regional action against antimicrobial resistance, and build climate-resilient health systems. They articulated collective dedication to reducing maternal and child mortality, improving nutrition and early childhood development, and promoting demographic resilience—a matter identified as central to the sustainable future of D-8 countries.



A major component of the Ministerial Session focused on pharmaceutical and vaccine access, with Ministers reiterating a shared aspiration for regional pharmaceutical sovereignty. They stressed the importance of strengthening local manufacturing capacity, promoting technology transfer, supporting joint R&D initiatives, and exploring mechanisms for pooled procurement and regulatory alignment. They also recognized the need for expanding immunization programmes and enhancing regional production capabilities for vaccines and biologics.

Digital health was another key issue discussed, with Ministers acknowledging its transformative potential for improving governance, service delivery, and health outcomes. The Secretary-General proposed the development of a D-8 Health Data and Innovation Platform, which would harmonize digital health systems, support evidence-based decision-making, and strengthen interoperability across Member States. Ministers expressed strong support for this proposal, noting that such an initiative, would accelerate regional cooperation in telemedicine, electronic health records, artificial intelligence, and real-time health intelligence.

The Ministerial Session was preceded by the High-Level Experts Meeting held from 17–18 November 2025, during which senior officials and technical experts, from Member States, reviewed national capacities and shared best practices in public health, maternal and child health, pharmaceutical access, and digital health. Their inputs shaped the final text of the Joint Ministerial Declaration.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ministers adopted the Joint D-8 Cairo Ministerial Declaration on Health Cooperation Framework, setting out a comprehensive roadmap, for future collaboration. As part of this commitment, Ministers agreed to establish a permanent D-8 Health Working Group, to coordinate technical cooperation, follow up on Ministerial commitments, promote joint projects, and advance policy alignment, among Member States.

The First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Health marked a milestone in the Organization's efforts, to deepen collaboration among its nine Member States, representing a population of over 1.2 billion people, across three continents. With a renewed spirit of cooperation, Member States expressed their determination to translate the Cairo Declaration into tangible actions that strengthens health systems, promote equity, and enhance resilience, for present and future generations.

Joint D-8 Cairo Ministerial Declaration on Health Cooperation Framework

1. We, the Ministers of Health of the Member States of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, comprising the Republic of Azerbaijan, 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, convened in Cairo on 19 November 2025 for the First D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Health, under the overarching theme "Innovation, Equity, and Resilience.

2. Guided by the D-8 vision of advancing sustainable socio-economic development through cooperation, solidarity, and shared responsibility, and by the principles and commitments enshrined in the D-8 Charter and reaffirmed in the Cairo Declaration adopted at the Eleventh D-8 Summit held on 19th December 2024, and referring to the D-8 Health and Social Protection Program hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, we reiterate our commitment to health as a fundamental human right, a strategic investment in human capital, and a cornerstone of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable growth. We met at a defining moment for global and regional health, when the lessons of recent pandemics and health emergencies, the rise of chronic diseases, and the growing impact of climate change call for renewed, science-based, and people-centered multilateral action.

3. We commend the leadership of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as Chair of the D-8, for elevating health as a strategic pillar of cooperation, and launching the D-8 Health Track to foster partnership, solidarity, and shared innovation among our nations, and for advancing the development of stronger, fairer, and more resilient health systems that leave no one behind. We recognize that this initiative provides a critical platform to strengthen regional collaboration, enhance health security, and accelerate progress towards sustainable development and social stability across the D-8 region.

4. We also recall the adoption of the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement in May 2025 and reaffirm our commitment to its principles of equity, solidarity, and preparedness, in alignment with the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Fourteenth WHO General Programme of Work (GPW14). We underscore that multilateral cooperation and the exchange of knowledge, technologies, and resources are indispensable to building resilient health systems and protecting populations from global health threats.

5. We recognize that our Member States, with over 1.2 billion people across three continents, embody a unique diversity of capacities, innovations, and health experiences. Through strengthened cooperation, the D-8 can serve as a dynamic platform to transform shared challenges into opportunities for collective progress, regional solidarity, and global leadership in health.

6. We reaffirm that investing in health yields significant social and economic benefits, underpinning the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We commit to strengthening primary health care systems as the cornerstone of universal health coverage, ensuring that essential services are accessible, affordable, and of high quality for all.

7. We emphasize that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a collective goal that requires resilient health systems focusing on innovative and sustainable financing, an empowered health workforce, and equitable access to essential healthcare services, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Strengthening Public Health Systems and Disease Prevention

8. We reaffirm that resilient, equitable, and people-centered public-health systems are fundamental pillars for sustainable development, economic growth, human security, achieving universal health coverage, and ensuring preparedness and response to emerging and re-emerging health threats. Despite significant progress in some countries, acknowledging dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that continue to challenge and exacerbate social disparities. We renew our collective resolve to strengthen public health infrastructures.

9. We express deep concern over the persistent burden of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, which continue to affect millions of people across our Member States. We commit to accelerating action to prevent, detect, control, and eliminate communicable diseases, while ensuring continuity of essential services and universal access to comprehensive prevention and treatment.

10. We also acknowledge the growing challenge of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, rare diseases, chronic respiratory conditions, and mental health disorders, which together pose a profound threat to health, productivity, and socioeconomic development.

11. We commit to strengthening surveillance, laboratory, and early-warning systems, and to building workforce capacities across all levels of the health system. We recognize antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as a pressing global and regional threat that undermines the achievements of modern medicine, and we pledge to promote the responsible use of antimicrobials, strengthen infection prevention and control measures, and invest in joint research and development for new tools, diagnostics, and vaccines.

One Health Approach

12. We reaffirm our commitment to advancing the One Health approach as a cornerstone of global health security and sustainable development. Recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, we emphasize the urgency of coordinated, multisectoral action to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

13. We commit to strengthening national and regional One Health platforms, enhancing surveillance systems, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration among the health, agriculture, environment, and wildlife sectors. We will promote joint research initiatives, workforce training, and data sharing to address zoonotic threats and ensure early warning and rapid response capacities across the D-8 region.

14. We further emphasize the importance of integrating the One Health approach into policy planning, health emergency preparedness, and climate resilience strategies to safeguard ecosystems and protect communities from future health crises.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

15. Referring to the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2024) Session and the adoption of the UNGA political declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance; we recognize antimicrobial resistance as an escalating global health and development challenge that threatens the effectiveness of modern medicine and endangers progress toward Universal Health Coverage.

16. We commit to implementing comprehensive national AMR strategies, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and expanding laboratory and surveillance capacity for antimicrobial use and resistance. We will promote the rational use of antimicrobials, stewardship programmes, and infection prevention and control practices across human, animal, and environmental sectors.

17. We further emphasize the need for sustained investment in research and innovation for new antimicrobials, diagnostics, and vaccines, and for regional cooperation in data sharing, policy harmonization, and capacity building to contain AMR and safeguard global health security.

Addressing Climate Change and Health Impacts

18. Referring to the global action plan on climate change and health 2025-2028 adopted during 78th World Health Assembly (WHA); we acknowledge climate change as one of the greatest threats to health and well-being in our time, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations in the D-8 region. We recognize its role in exacerbating food and water insecurity, vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, and displacement.

19. We commend Baku COP Presidencies Continuity Coalition for Climate and Health, established by the United Kingdom (COP26), Arab Republic of Egypt (COP27), United Arab Emirates (COP28), Republic of Azerbaijan (COP29) and Federative Republic of Brazil (COP30) and World Health Organization to institutionalize health within climate agenda and encourage future COP Presidencies to prioritize health as the crucial part of their Action Agenda Initiatives.

20. We are committed to advancing climate-resilient health systems that can anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate-related risks. We will promote sustainable health infrastructure, environmentally responsible health-care delivery, and the reduction of carbon emissions across the health sector.

21. We call for strengthening investment in early warning systems, climate-health research, and intersectoral collaboration to strengthen adaptation and mitigation efforts. We further emphasize the importance of global solidarity, equitable financing, and technology transfer to ensure that all Member States can effectively safeguard their populations from the health impacts of climate change.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

22. Referring to the WHO NTDs Roadmap 2021-2030, we call for strengthen multisectoral cooperation and expand the accesses to early diagnosis and treatment, and invest in community centered interventions to ensure that no population left behind. We recognize that neglected tropical diseases continue to impose a significant social and economic burden across the D-8 region, disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

23. We commit to intensifying efforts toward the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and elimination of NTDs through integrated, community-based interventions and strengthened primary healthcare systems. We will promote regional coordination, knowledge exchange, and resource mobilization to sustain progress and prevent disease resurgence.

24. We further emphasize the need to integrate NTD control with broader health and development strategies, including water, sanitation, education, and poverty reduction, to achieve lasting impact and equitable health outcomes for all.

Enhancing Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health

25. We reaffirm that the health and well-being of mothers, newborns, children and adolescent have direct contribution to sustainable and central to human development, demographic resilience, the prosperity and stability of our societies. Despite notable progress, maternal and child mortality remain unacceptably high in several Member States.

26. We commit to accelerating actions to end preventable deaths and to ensuring that every mother and child has access to quality, respectful, and affordable care. We further emphasize the importance of integrated early childhood, life-course and healthy longevity strategies that promote early investment in health and strengthen demographic resilience.

27. We emphasize the importance of investing in the premarital care, the first and next 1,000 golden days of life, ensuring access to essential nutrition, immunization, positive parenting and early developmental services that shape long-term health and productivity.

28. We also recognize the need to build resilient health systems that can adapt to demographic transitions and foster healthy longevity and human capital development.

29. We commend national and regional initiatives, which provide valuable models for comprehensive maternal and child health programmes. We agree to expand our cooperation and exchange of best practices in nutrition, reproductive health, vaccination, and neonatal care, and to strengthen our collective capacity to reach underserved populations and reduce health inequalities.

30. Acknowledging the current global demographic challenges, we propose optimizing the reproductive health services and the spacing of pregnancy to protect child rights and optimal solitary care during the first golden 1000 days that pave the way to human capital development, demographic and economic dividend.

Access to Medicines, Vaccines, and Health Technologies

31. We reaffirm our shared aspiration to achieve regional pharmaceutical sovereignty to ensure equitable and sustainable access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medical products, vaccines, diagnostics, and health technologies.

32. We emphasize the urgency of fostering local manufacturing capacity, strengthening technology transfer and regulatory harmonization, and advancing pooled procurement mechanisms to enhance self-reliance, reduce dependency, and build resilient regional supply chains that safeguard health equity across the D-8 region.

33. We also recognize that ensuring equitable access requires strong regulatory systems, transparent procurement mechanisms, and effective regional coordination. We support the establishment of joint platforms for technology transfer, pooled procurement, and research collaboration to accelerate innovation and affordability.

34. We recognize the vital importance of sustaining robust immunization programmes and expanding vaccine production capacities across D-8 Member States. We commit to strengthening collaboration in research and development, fostering public-private partnerships, and promoting investment in innovative health technologies to accelerate equitable and sustainable access to vaccines and immunization services throughout the region.

Accelerating Digital Health Transformation and Data Systems

35. We recognize digital health as a transformative tool for achieving Universal Health Coverage and strengthening health system governance, efficiency and equity across the D-8 region. We underscore the strategic value of digital innovation in enhancing service delivery, optimizing resource use, and extending quality care to underserved populations.

36. We are committed to advancing secure, interoperable, and inclusive digital health ecosystems through investments in robust data infrastructure, telehealth, telemedicine, electronic health records, artificial intelligence, and mobile health technologies. We emphasize that digital transformation must be people-centered, ethically guided, and aligned with the principles of data privacy, security, and sovereignty.

37. We further commit to strengthening cooperation in research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange to accelerate the digitalization of health systems. We will work collectively to enhance data interoperability, promote open and equitable access to digital solutions, and establish collaborative frameworks for digital-health governance and data security that ensure trust, accountability, and the ethical use of health information.

38. We acknowledge the potential of digital platforms to bridge geographic and socio-economic disparities, enable real-time health intelligence, and support evidence-based decision-making that improves population health outcomes.

Addressing Cross-Cutting Determinants and Future Cooperation

39. We recognize that health is influenced by social, economic, and environmental determinants, including education, nutrition, housing, employment, and access to clean water and sanitation, and that equitable progress requires integrated, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. We emphasize the importance of addressing health inequalities, urban-rural divides, and gender disparities through inclusive policies that leave no one behind.

40. Member states reaffirm the fundamental principle that health must remain beyond any political and financial or trade related concerns. They emphasized that any measures impeding access to medicines or vaccines are inconsistent with humanitarian principles and the universal right to health. Accordingly, Member States underscored the need to ensure the unhindered flow of essential health goods and technical cooperation.

41. To this end, we hereby decide to establish a permanent D-8 Health Working Group, as a permanent technical mechanism under the D-8 Health and Social Protection Programme, to coordinate thematic areas, follow up on ministerial commitments, facilitate joint projects, knowledge exchange, and promote policy alignment among Member States. It will also monitor the implementation of this Declaration and report regularly to the D-8 Secretariat and the future Health Ministers' Meetings to ensure sustained progress and accountability.

Conclusion

42. We, the Ministers of Health of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, reaffirm our shared vision for a healthier, fairer, and more resilient future. We pledge to translate this Declaration into action, guided by the principles of solidarity, innovation, and equity.

Adopted in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 19 November 2025

HISTORIC FIRST D-8 MEDIA FORUM CONVENED IN BAKU, ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE MEDIA DEVELOPMENT, ACROSS MEMBER STATES



The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) successfully convened the First D-8 Media Forum in Baku on 21 November 2025, hosted by the Media Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Forum was attended by H.E. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and senior officials from relevant media authorities of member states, representatives of media institutions, editors, journalists, and communication experts from all D-8 Member States, under the theme: “Fostering Dialogue, Collaboration, and Regional Cohesion.”

The event opened with remarks by H.E. 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, who delivered the opening address of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. President Aliyev’s message emphasized Azerbaijan’s commitment to strengthening international media cooperation, supporting responsible journalism, and promoting a fair and trustworthy information environment, across the D-8 regions.

This was followed by opening statements from H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8, and H.E. Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



In his remarks, Secretary-General Ambassador Imam, expressed appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan, for hosting the Forum. He highlighted the essential role of the media in connecting societies, enhancing the Organization’s visibility, and countering misinformation. He also underscored the importance of stronger cooperation, among Member States, as well as implementation of the proposals for more structured media collaboration, joint professional development programs, and the institutionalization of the Media Forum.



In the national statements, and thematic panel sessions that followed, participants explored topics such as responsible journalism, digital innovation, strategic communication, and crisis management. Delegations also shared their own national experiences, best practices, and recent reforms, in the media and communication sectors, highlighting how each Member State is addressing challenges such as misinformation, digital transformation, regulatory modernization, and youth-oriented media literacy. Speakers addressed the challenges posed by disinformation, hybrid threats, deepfakes, and misuse of artificial intelligence, underscoring the importance of ethical journalism, media literacy, and public trust. Delegations emphasized that information today serves as a strategic tool that shapes international relations, public confidence, and economic development.

A key highlight of the Forum was the presentation of the D-8 Media Excellence Center (D-8 MEC), which Azerbaijan has offered to host. The Center is envisioned as a hub for media training, research, digital capacity-building, and coordinated communication initiatives. Member States welcomed the proposal and expressed their readiness to support its operationalization.

At the end of the Dialogue, Member States adopted the Baku Declaration 2025, on Collaborative Media Development, reaffirming their collective commitment to strengthening cooperation, among relevant ministries and authorities of media and information, national broadcasters, media organizations, and training institutions. The Declaration emphasized the development of joint communication platforms, enhanced information exchange, the responsible use of emerging technologies, and expanded opportunities, for journalist training and youth-oriented media literacy initiatives. Delegations also supported the proposal to institutionalize the D-8 Media Forum, as an annual platform and took note of initiatives to establish stronger inter-agency cooperation, among media institutions of Member States.

On the margins of the Forum, Secretary-General Imam held bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Hikmet Hajiyev and H.E. Attaullah Tarar, during which they reviewed ongoing cooperation and explored future initiatives, in the media and communication fields, under the D-8 framework.

The Forum concluded with a workshop. An international media expert, Dr. Tiffany J. Bell, delivered a paper on “Media Ethics in a Digitalized World: Technology, Trends, and Narratives,” providing added value to the professional exchange among participants.

Baku Declaration 2025 on Collaborative Media Development and Cooperation among D-8 Member States

We, the governments and media representatives 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, Members of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), met in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 21 November 2025 for the First D-8 Media Forum under the theme "Fostering Dialogue, Collaboration, and Regional Cohesion."

We express our deep appreciation to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his leadership and valuable contributions toward strengthening the D-8 and advancing its transformation into a more dynamic and influential economic bloc.

We further commend all D-8 Member States particularly their relevant Ministries responsible for information, national media authorities, and media agencies for their active and valuable contributions to the proceedings of the Forum.

Reaffirming the principles of the D-8 and recognizing the growing need for stronger cooperation in the evolving global media landscape, we hereby declare the following:

Reaffirm our commitment to enhancing media cooperation among D-8 Member States to promote mutual understanding, regional solidarity, and shared development goals.

Acknowledge the proposal to institutionalize the D-8 Media Forum as a platform, hosted by D-8 member states to ensure inclusiveness and joint ownership.

Call for the earliest operationalization of the D-8 Media Excellence Center to be hosted by Azerbaijan as the central hub for training, research, innovation, digital capacity-building, and coordinated communication initiatives, with active participation from all Member States.

Develop structured capacity-building programs, workshops, and professional exchanges through the D-8 Media Excellence Center to strengthen institutional and human resource capabilities across the D-8.

Enhance cooperation among national media authorities, news agencies, and public broadcasters to improve information exchange, harmonize strategies, and support joint content initiatives.

Take note of the initiative to establish a Broadcasting Association of D-8 Countries to facilitate program exchange, co-production, and the sharing of cultural and educational content.

Encourage the development of collaborative D-8 digital platforms for co-production, and cross-border storytelling, strengthening the visibility of D-8 narratives globally.

Promote coordinated efforts to counter misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech through shared fact-checking mechanisms, common verification tools, and rapid communication channels.

Strengthen partnerships with international media organizations, research bodies, and global communication networks to build collective resilience against harmful digital content and emerging risks.

Uphold ethical journalism and support the development of a unified D-8 code of conduct that embodies professionalism, responsibility, and accuracy across all media formats.

Advance media literacy initiatives particularly for youth and educators to foster informed digital citizenship and safer online environments across Member States.

Support responsible innovation in media technologies, including transparent and ethical use of artificial intelligence in content creation, verification, and governance.

Strengthen cooperation among Institutes and Schools of Journalism, promoting fellowships, academic exchanges, and professional development for journalists.

Express our readiness to work closely with the leadership of the D-8 Media Excellence Center in Azerbaijan and reaffirm our collective commitment to supporting its effective functioning, advancing shared priorities, and fostering stronger media cooperation across all D-8 Member States.

We are convinced that the effective implementation of this Declaration will contribute to a more interconnected, informed, and resilient D-8 media space, supporting peace, development, and mutual understanding among our nations.

We express our gratitude to the Media Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the excellent arrangements that ensured the successful convening of the first-ever D-8 Media Forum.

Adopted in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 21 November 2025.

D-8 TRADE MINISTERS REINFORCE THEIR COMMITMENTS TO DEEPEN TRADE INTEGRATION



The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) has successfully convened its 4th Meeting of the Trade Ministers Council (TMC), as well as the preceding Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), in Cairo, Egypt FROM 1-2 December 2025. The meeting, hosted by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, had in attendance Ministers of Trade and other Heads of Delegation, from the Member States.

During the meeting, the Trade Ministers reiterated their collective determination to strengthen economic cooperation, enhance trade facilitation, as well as advance institutional mechanisms, that will enable the D-8 to emerge as a more integrated, competitive, and impactful economic bloc. Furthermore, they expressed the hope that the decisions taken at the Cairo meeting, would provide the renewed impetus, to increase intra-D-8 trade relations, and contribute meaningfully, to shared prosperity, for their mutual benefits.

In his remarks, the Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, commended Egypt's effective and result oriented leadership, since she assumed the Chairmanship of the organization. He reaffirmed the Secretariat's support for Member States, in translating their political commitments, into tangible trade outcomes. He noted, with satisfaction, the growing momentum, amongst member states, towards expanding the D-8 PTA, into a more progressive instrument, supported by institutional cooperation, with a view to achieving the collective target of USD 500, billion in intra-D-8 trade relations, by 2030.

While delivering his address, the Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt, Eng. Hassan El-Khatib, lamented the considerable underutilized economic potentials of the D-8 and called on member states to accelerate the implementation of the agreed trade instrument such as, the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA). He highlighted the importance of operationalizing the D-8 PTA as well as advancing discussions toward a more comprehensive and future-oriented trade framework that would be capable of responding to global economic shifts, strengthening resilience, and unlocking intra-D-8 trade opportunities, particularly for SMEs and youth-led enterprises.

A key outcome of the ministerial meeting, was the adoption of the "Cairo Declaration on Trade," which sets out a clear and actionable roadmap to deepen trade integration, among Member States. Through the Declaration, Ministers:

- Welcomed the continued operationalization of the D-8 PTA;
- Encouraged remaining Contracting Members to accelerate their domestic procedures, to ensure full implementation;
- Endorsed the work of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA and tasked it, together with the recently established Experts Working Group, to advance analytical and technical work, on expanding the D-8 PTA, into a broader and more comprehensive framework;
- Expressed a shared resolve to explore pathways, toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) or other equivalent progressive trade arrangements; and
- Reaffirmed the central role of the private sector, including SMEs, in driving sustainable trade growth, and supported enhanced business-to-business engagement, across D-8 economies.

One of the highlights of the Meeting, was the offer of the Government of Türkiye to host the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8CCI) in Istanbul, in collaboration with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), thus marking a significant institutional step, toward strengthening the private-sector engagement, within the D-8 framework.

Cairo Declaration on D-8 Organization's Trade Cooperation

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.

D-8 YOUTH DIALOGUE 2025 CONCLUDED IN BAKU WITH ADOPTION OF BAKU YOUTH DECLARATION

The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) has successfully concluded the D-8 Youth Dialogue 2025, held from 6 to 9 December 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Dialogue brought together youth delegates, government officials, experts, and representatives of relevant national institutions, from all D-8 Member States and was convened under the theme “Youth Shaping the Future of the Global Urban Agenda: Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Cities of Tomorrow.”



The high-level opening ceremony featured statements by H.E. Farid Gayibov, Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan; H.E. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization; H.E. Anar Guliyev, Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of Azerbaijan; H.E. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and COP29 Lead Negotiator; Ms. Merna Alzurikat, UN SDG Young Leader; and H.E. Mohamed Abdulkadir Ali, Minister of Youth and Sports of Somalia, as a special guest.



In his remarks, the Secretary-General emphasized that, with 210 million young people across the D-8 regions, youth constitute one of the bloc's greatest comparative advantages, highlighting their indispensable role in driving innovation, human development, and sustainable urban transformation. He underlined that the Organization seeks to equip youth with the knowledge, skills, and networks, required to ensure that “no young person is left behind, in the journey toward sustainable urban development.”

He also encouraged participants to take full advantage of the Dialogue, noting that the collective creativity and digital fluency of D-8 youth, are vital to shaping the future of cities, across the Member States.

Throughout the four-day meeting, participants engaged in extensive discussions on youth-driven approaches to human development, including equitable access to education, skills training, decent employment, and social inclusion. The program also focused on the importance of empowering youth, to contribute to the development of sustainable and climate-resilient cities. Panels and interactive sessions explored smart and inclusive urban planning, digital transformation, mobility systems, green jobs, low-carbon development, and climate adaptation, with contributions from experts representing UN-Habitat, national ministries, academia, municipalities, and the private sector.

National presentations showcased the strategies and best practices of member countries, in integrating youth perspectives, into urban governance and policymaking. Young participants also took part in storytelling sessions, workshops, and a mock negotiation exercise, designed to enhance their leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.

A key outcome of the Dialogue was the adoption of the D-8 Baku Youth Declaration 2025. The Declaration reaffirm the commitment of D-8 youth to advancing human development and sustainable urbanization, as priorities for the region. It calls for broader access to education, digital literacy, vocational training, and health services; expanded opportunities for green jobs and youth entrepreneurship; and institutionalized youth participation in decision-making, at both national and regional levels.



The Declaration stresses the importance of strengthening cooperation between governments, youth organizations, municipalities, UN agencies, and the private sector and activation of the D-8 Youth Council, as a crucial step toward enhancing regional youth cooperation. It also welcomes Azerbaijan's proposal for the creation of a D-8 Youth Capital initiative, which underscore the relevance of youth contributions to global processes, including the 82nd Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the 13th World Urban Forum, to be hosted in Baku in 2026.

During the Dialogue, the D-8 Secretary-General also held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Farid Gayibov, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The two sides discussed opportunities to further strengthen youth cooperation, within the D-8 framework, including joint programs and initiatives that will support the Organization's youth development agenda and deepen engagement among Member States.

The program included guided tour of the Victory Museum and the city of Sumgayit, the 2025 Youth Capital of Azerbaijan, for all delegates, offering participants firsthand insight into Azerbaijan's youth development initiatives and urban planning experience. Also, the tour afforded the delegates the opportunity to observe ongoing urban transformation projects and a chance to engage with local youth representatives. These activities complemented the Dialogue's thematic sessions by illustrating practical approaches to sustainable development, community engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Baku Youth Declaration 2025

We, the youth delegates of the Developing -8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), representing Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye, met in Baku from 06–08 December 2025 under the theme “Youth Shaping the Future of the Global Urban Agenda”.

We express our deep appreciation to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his leadership and valuable contributions toward strengthening the D-8 and advancing its transformation into a more dynamic and powerful economic bloc with active involvement of youth from the D-8 region.

Recognizing the rapid pace of urbanization and the critical role of youth in shaping sustainable and climate-resilient cities, we affirm our commitment to advancing human development and building inclusive and resilient urban environments across the D-8 region.

Guided by the COP29 Baku Guiding Principles on Human Development for Climate Resilience and the COP29 Declaration on Multisectoral Action Pathways (MAP) to resilient and healthy cities.

We, the youth delegates of the D-8 Youth Dialogue 2025, reaffirm our commitments below to advancing human development and sustainable and climate-resilient urban development as key priorities for the region:

- Expand equitable access to education, skills development, employment, and health services for all youth.*
- Ensure meaningful youth participation in policymaking, urban planning, and sustainable development efforts.*
- Promote urban strategies that reduce climate risks and support low-carbon, renewable energy-based and adaptive infrastructure.*
- Utilize digital tools, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies to improve urban systems, service delivery, and planning processes.*
- Strengthen cooperation among governments, youth organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society.*
- Ensure that urban development is environmentally responsible, socially just, and culturally respectful.*

We call on governments and partners to support youth leadership and provide the necessary resources to implement these commitments. We further emphasize the importance of addressing the nexus between housing, human development, digital transformation, and inclusive economic growth, ensuring that youth perspectives inform discussions at the 13th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) and contribute to shaping future D-8 policies and initiatives.

A coordinated partnership framework will ensure that youth voices are embedded across all stages of policy development and implementation, positioning the D-8 as a leading model for youth-driven sustainable development.

We also recommend following:

1. Advancing Human Development Through Education, Skills, and Youth Participation

To address the growing skills gap, evolving labor markets, and the need to build resilient human capital across D-8 Member States, we propose a comprehensive human development agenda that strengthens education systems, employment pathways, and youth participation. In this regard, we recommend:

- Enhancing access to quality education by expanding vocational training, digital literacy programs, and competency-based learning to equip young people with future ready skills.*
- Integrating sustainability, civic responsibility, and global citizenship into national educational programs to foster environmentally conscious and socially engaged youth.*
- Promoting youth employment through the development of green jobs, entrepreneurship programs, and regional mentorship networks that support innovation and business development.*
- Expanding youth-friendly health and mental health services, strengthening awareness of physical and psychological well-being through community programs and school-based initiatives.*
- Institutionalizing youth advisory councils at national and D-8 levels to embed youth perspectives in policy design, especially in urban development, climate action, and social planning.*

Investing in human development will enable D-8 countries to cultivate a skilled, healthy, and civically engaged youth population capable of driving sustainable economic growth and social transformation across the region.

2. Building Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Cities Through Youth-Centered Approaches

To address shared challenges and advance youth-inclusive resilient urban development, we propose the following:

- Integrating youth perspectives into national and local urban planning processes, ensuring that young people contribute to building inclusive, safe, and climate-resilient cities.*
- Improving access to essential public services, including safe mobility systems, smart city solutions, affordable housing, and green public spaces that enhance urban livability.*
- Supporting youth-led environmental innovation, particularly in renewable energy, sustainable mobility, and circular economy models that contribute to low-carbon development.*

- Encouraging the adoption of digital tools and AI technologies for environmental monitoring and climate data analysis.
- Engaging young people in national climate commitments (NDCs) and local adaptation strategies, while promoting youth-led actions on climate resilience and biodiversity protection.
- Strengthening digital access and smart city integration, establishing youth innovation hubs, digital entrepreneurship spaces, and platforms that expand urban-tech opportunities.

These initiatives will empower the younger generation as co-creators of resilient urban futures, strengthen climate action, and support the region's transition to sustainable, technologically advanced cities.

3. Promoting Social Inclusion, Cultural Engagement, and Youth Mobility

Recognizing that social cohesion and cultural understanding are essential for long-term regional stability and cooperation, we call for strengthened youth mobility, cultural exchange, and inclusive participation. To achieve this, we recommend:

- Expanding youth mobility and cultural exchange programs, enabling young people to participate in regional study visits, volunteer initiatives, and short-term learning experiences that deepen intercultural understanding.
- Ensuring gender equality and inclusion, incorporating the voices of young women and marginalized groups into national and regional planning, leadership roles, and youth-led initiatives.
- Supporting youth-driven cultural heritage and community projects, encouraging activities that preserve cultural identity, foster community engagement, and strengthen shared regional values.

Through these measures, D-8 member countries will reinforce people-to-people ties, promote inclusive development, and cultivate a sense of shared identity among young generations.

4. Strengthening Partnerships and Implementation Mechanisms for Youth-Led Development

To ensure the long-term impact of youth initiatives in the D-8 region, it is essential to establish structured coordination, monitoring mechanisms, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Therefore, we propose:

- *Recalling the establishment of the D-8 Youth Council in Bangladesh as an institutional mechanism to enhance youth cooperation among Member States, we underscore the importance of its full operationalization. In this regard, we encourage the concerned Member State to take the necessary steps, in close coordination with the D-8 Secretariat and other Member States, to activate the Youth Council.*
- *To express the willingness of youth from the D-8 region to engage, as appropriate, in the activities of existing D-8 affiliated bodies, as well as in future initiatives and centers envisaged within the D-8 framework, including the D-8 Energy and Climate Center, the D-8 Media Excellence Center, and the D-8 Transport Excellence Center, which are planned to be hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a view to supporting cooperation in areas such as climate action, energy, transport, media, research, training, innovation, and capacity-building.*
- *To develop robust monitoring and evaluation systems that track the progress of youth led initiatives, document best practices, and ensure that their outcomes are shared and integrated into regional and global platforms, including United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the WUFs. In this context, we acknowledge and applaud the commitment of D-8 Member States, Egypt and Azerbaijan, for hosting WUF12 (2024, Cairo) and WUF13 (2026, Baku), thereby providing platforms for youth engagement and knowledge exchange at the international level.*
- *Strengthening collaboration among governments, municipalities, UN agencies, NGOs, and the private sector, promoting joint programs that scale youth-led urban solutions and innovation projects.*
- *Supporting the initiative of Azerbaijan on establishing the D-8 Youth Capital as a dedicated platform to empower young people, foster regional collaboration, and advance youth-led innovation across the D-8 region.*

In conclusion, we express our sincere gratitude to the the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the excellent organization, generous hospitality, and unwavering support in hosting the D-8 Youth Dialogue 2025 in Baku.

Adopted in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 07 December 2025.

SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

HIGH LEVEL CLIMATE AND URBAN DIALOGUE CONVENED IN BAKU

Building upon the outcomes of the Commissioners' Retreat, the High-Level Climate and Urban Dialogue was held on 17 October 2025 in Baku, under the theme: "Aligning Climate and Urban Action with the D-8 Decennial Roadmap."



The event was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and was attended by Ministers, Deputy Ministers, D-8 Commissioners, Mayors, senior government officials, and experts from the D-8 Member States. The Dialogue provided a platform for Member States to share national experiences, best practices, and policy approaches, to address the challenges of climate change and sustainable urbanization.

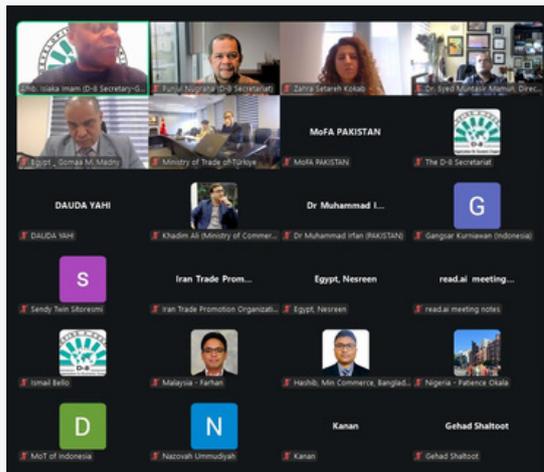


In his remarks, H.E. Secretary-General Imam emphasized the urgent need for collective and coordinated action against the growing threats of climate change. He called for the integration of climate considerations, into urban development planning and underlined three key areas for joint action:

- Anticipating and mitigating the severe impacts of the climate crisis, through forward-looking and inclusive urban planning;
- Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, green spaces, and early-warning systems, to safeguard communities and promote adaptive capacity;
- Expanding the use of renewable energy, sustainable transportation systems, and circular economy practices, to reduce carbon emissions and ensure resource efficiency.

The Dialogue featured interventions from representatives of D-8 Member States on Climate and Urban Development, who delivered national statements and shared their perspectives on how D-8 cooperation can support the achievement of global and national climate objectives. They presented experiences, in sustainable city management, green infrastructure development, and the transition to renewable energy systems, while expressing their readiness to collaborate, through D-8 platforms and joint projects.

MEETING OF EXPERTS WORKING GROUP TO EXPAND THE D-8 PTA, HELD VIRTUALLY



The Experts Working Group Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA into a More Progressive Instrument (EWG), held its inaugural meeting, through a virtual platform, on 12 November 2025.

The EWG’s meeting marked a crucial milestone for the D-8’s collective endeavor, to deepen its economic integration, by expanding the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement into a more progressive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA).

During the meeting, the EWG elected its Chairman (Egypt), Vice-Chairmen (Bangladesh and Indonesia), and Rapporteur (Türkiye). The EWG also adopted its Terms of Reference (TOR), as the guiding principles for its endeavor.

In his remarks, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, underlined the consideration for the expansion of the D-8 PTA, to enable the organization to unleash its true potential, as an economic powerhouse.

Established by the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA, the EWG has commenced its scoping exercise, to determine the possibility of a D-8 CEPA.

D-8 SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 5th CONSULTATIVE FORUM OF RCO

Representing the D-8 SG, the Director II, at the Secretariat, Mr. Punjul Nugraha, participated in the 5th Consultative Forum of the Regional Cooperation Organizations in the OIC Region (5th RCO), which was co-hosted by the Islamic Center for Development of Trade and the Islamic Development Bank in Istanbul on 2-3 October 2025.

The D-8 Secretariat took the opportunity of the meeting to present the progress of the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement of the D-8 (D-8 PTA). The Director II also introduced the D-8’s SME Development programs, including the recently established D-8 SME Center in Abuja.

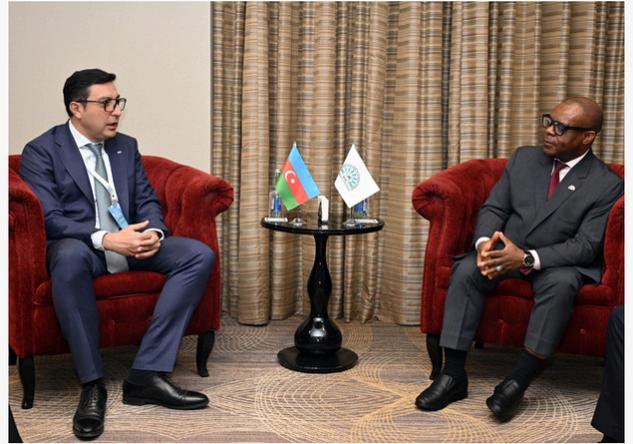


The RCO, which was also attended by UN agencies and other international organizations, provided a valuable opportunity for the D-8 Secretariat to foster collaboration to pursue its objectives.

D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL AMBASSADOR IMAM HELD BILATERAL MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS OF AZERBAIJAN

On the sidelines of the D-8 Youth Dialogue, held from 6-9 December 2025 in Baku, the D-8 Secretary General, held a productive bilateral meeting with H.E. Farid Gayibov, the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the meeting, D-8 Secretary General appreciated the Government of Azerbaijan and the Minister for hosting this important Dialogue. Both dignitaries discussed about enhancing D-8 youth cooperation, through programs and projects that supports Youth development agenda of the organization.



D-8 SECRETARIAT ATTENDED THE RECEPTION ORGANIZED BY GOVERNORSHIP OF ISTANBUL



Representing the Secretary General, the Director I, in the Secretariat of D-8, H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, attended the reception organized by the Governorship of Istanbul on 28 October 2025, on the occasion of the 102nd Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye.

On 29 October 2025, Ambassador Özcan also participated in the Republic Day Ceremony, held at the Istanbul Governorship building, where he met with senior bureaucrats and representatives of diplomatic missions in Istanbul.

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 41ST SESSION OF COMCEC IN ISTANBUL

H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the 41st Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), in Istanbul on 3 November 2025.

Attending the 41st COMCEC, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, the D-8 SG noted the salient points delivered by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Türkiye, particularly on the staunch support of Türkiye towards Palestine and the role of COMCEC and OIC, in creating peace in the region.



AMBASSADOR IMAM MET WITH THE MINISTER OF INVESTMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE OF EGYPT



On the margins of the 41st Session of COMCEC, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a brief meeting with H.E. Hassan El-Khatib, the Honorable Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in Istanbul, on 3 November 2025.

The Meeting discussed the preparation for the 4th Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council, which Egypt will host in Cairo from 1 – 2 December 2025. The D-8 SG reported that member states have begun confirming their participations. He also assured of the support of the Secretariat, to ensure the success of the Trade Ministers' Meeting and its preceding Senior Officials' Meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL AMBASSADOR IMAM HELD A BILATERAL MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IOFS

On the sidelines of the 41st Session of COMCEC, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Ambassador Beryk Arin, the Director General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), in Istanbul on 3 November 2025.

The two dignitaries discussed the progress of the existing Joint Action Plan between the D-8 and IOFS on agriculture and food security cooperation. They agreed to review and rejuvenate the action plan, focusing on climate-smart agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and research and development. The two Organizations signed an MoU, in 2023, which was followed by a Joint Action Plan signed, in 2024.



DIRECTOR, AMBASSADOR ÖZCAN MET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF TOBB



Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director at the D-8 Secretariat, met with Mr. Mustafa Bayburtlu, Deputy Secretary General of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB), and his team at TOBB Headquarters in Ankara on 29 December 2025. The meeting followed the decision of the 4th D-8 Trade Ministerial Council held in Cairo, on 2 December 2025 to establish the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry, to be hosted by TOBB. Discussions focused on procedural and substantive arrangements for its establishment.

ACTIVITIES OF D-8 AFFILIATED BODIES

D-8 NETWORK OF PIONEERS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (D-8 NPRI)

D-8 NPRI Summit Held in Malaysia to Advance Regional Research and Innovation Cooperation

The 4th D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI) Summit was successfully held from 6–9 October 2025, in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, hosted by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), in collaboration with the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.



The Summit held under the theme: “Driving Regional Innovation, Shaping Sustainable Global Solutions,” brought together University academics, policymakers, and institutional representatives, from D-8 Member States, with a view to strengthen collaboration in research, innovation, and knowledge-based development.

The Summit also marked a significant milestone with the appointment of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, as the D-8 NPRI Secretariat for the period 2025–2027. The highlights of the summit were the launch of the official D-8 NPRI logo and website, and the announcement of catalytic seed-funding, to support the Network’s operationalization. Participants also formalized cooperation, through Letters of Intent and Memoranda of Understanding, reinforcing institutional partnerships across member states.

Integrated within UTM Global Connect 2025, the Summit emphasized the transition of D-8 NPRI, from a consultative academic platform, to a delivery-oriented and institutionalized network, aligned with the sustainable development priorities, ethical innovation, and Global South cooperation.

The outcomes of the Summit reaffirmed the D-8 Organization’s commitment to leveraging science, research, and innovation, as key drivers of inclusive economic growth and long-term development, among its Member States.

D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (D-8 IU)

Advancing Scientific Diplomacy, through Strategic Partnership

D-8IU's International Office is excited to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between D-8 International University and Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Indonesia. This strategic partnership establishes a framework for collaborative research, academic exchanges, and joint innovation projects, that will drive meaningful impact, across the D-8 community and beyond.

The MoU pave the way for faculty and student mobility programs, shared research initiatives, address of regional challenges, and knowledge transfer activities, designed to translate academic excellence, into tangible solutions. This alliance represent a significant step in strengthening international academic cooperation and creating new pathways, for scientific advancement. Together, we are building bridges for innovation and creating opportunities for cross-cultural learning, that will benefit both institutions and the wider global community.

Holding a Specialized Workshop on New Analytical Methods for ICP-OES in Water Analysis

The D-8 International University, in line with its mission to strengthen scientific and academic cooperation, between member countries, organized a workshop entitled: "New Analytical Methods for ICP-OES in Water Analysis" on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. Professor Miguel Ángel Aguirre Pastor, Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry, at the University of Alicante, Spain, was the Speaker at the event.

The main topics covered during this scientific workshop, included investigating the potential of multi-nebulization systems in ICP-OES, for water analysis, as well as microextraction techniques and their applications, in elemental analysis.

It is worth noting that Professor Aguirre Pastor specializes in the development of innovative analytical methods, for elemental analysis in environmental, fuel, and pharmaceutical samples. His recent contributions include the integration of multiple nebulizers with online calibration, the application of novel solvents in liquid-liquid microextraction techniques (such as deep eutectic solvents and magnetic ionic liquids), and the design of miniature analytical systems, based on smartphone devices.

The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for faculty members, researchers, and students from D-8 member countries, and other participants, to engage in scientific exchange and strengthen research networks, in the field of water analysis.

USB and D-8IU Sign Strategic Agreements to Enhance International Academic Cooperation

The University of Sistan and Baluchestan (USB) and D-8 International University (D-8IU) have signed a series of cooperation agreements, officially launching the International Bridge Initiative, (IBI), aimed at enhancing international academic collaboration and innovation.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the agreements set a framework for cooperation in several key areas:

- Student and Faculty Exchange
- Joint Research Projects
- Joint and Dual Degree Programs
- International Workshops and Courses
- Joint Graduate Programs



Both sides emphasized the strong potential within USB's academic and research ecosystem and expressed their shared commitment to fostering sustainable international cooperation. After the ceremony, the D-8IU delegation visited USB's research laboratories, innovation and incubation centers, and other facilities, marking the beginning of a productive partnership, built on shared vision and academic collaboration.

Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to D-8 International University

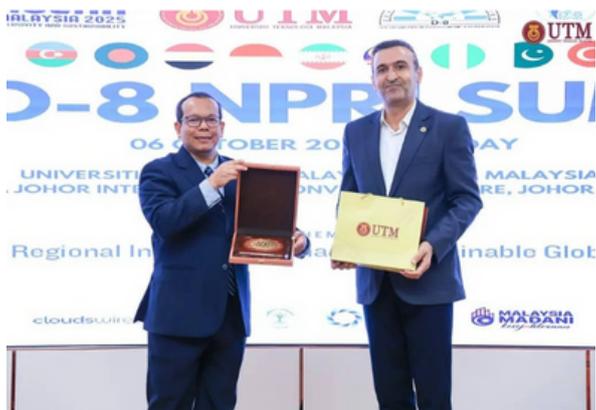


On November 1, 2024, D-8 International University, hosted Senior Officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including H.E. Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Araghchi was briefed on the university's mandate to enhance scientific and technological cooperation, among D-8 member states. He emphasized the institution's vital role in scientific diplomacy, describing it as a key platform for fostering academic and cultural ties, across the developing world.

He highlighted the necessity of deeper collaboration between diplomatic channels and the university, recognizing it as a valuable asset for executing joint international projects and cultivating specialized global expertise. The visit concluded with strong support for the university's mission to advance international scientific cooperation and diplomacy.

Participation of the Chancellor of D-8 International University in the 4th D-8 NPRI Summit



The 4th D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research, Innovation (D-8 NPRI 2025), with the theme: “Driving Regional Innovation, Shaping Sustainable Global Solutions”, held from 6 to 8 October 2025, at the Persada Johor International Convention Centre and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Recognized as one of the most significant scientific and technological events, among the D-8 member states, the summit serves as a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and experiences among academics, researchers, policymakers, innovators, and industry leaders from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

In this prestigious event, Prof. Hassan Sarikhani, Chancellor of D-8 International University, attended as the official representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and D-8 International University. Prof. Sarikhani’s participation in the high-level sessions and policy dialogues, was aimed at strengthening scientific diplomacy, promote academic and research cooperation among member states’ Universities, as well as pave the way for the implementation of joint projects in the fields of innovation and technology.

As an academic institution, affiliated with the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, D-8 International University has played a pivotal role in advancing scientific and technological collaboration, among member states, in recent years. Notable achievements of the university include, the establishment of the International Scientific Council for the Water Project and the presentation of the IBI initiative, designed to attract international students from D-8 member countries.

The active participation of D-8 International University in the D-8 NPRI 2025 Summit represents a significant step in fostering international engagement, enhancing scientific standing of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at both regional and global levels, as well as contributing to shaping new horizons for science, technology, and innovation, across the Islamic world.



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