



## **ADOPTED REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON SCOPING EXERCISE TO EXPAND THE D-8 PTA INTO A MORE PROGRESSIVE INSTRUMENT**

**VIRTUAL, 12 JANUARY 2026**

### **I. Background**

1. The Expert Working Group on Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA Into a More Progressive Instrument (EWG) held its second meeting through a virtual channel on 12 January 2026. The representatives from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Türkiye attended the Meeting. The representatives of the D-8 Secretariat were also in attendance. The List of Participants is enclosed as **Annex I**.
2. The second meeting of EWG was co-hosted by D-8 Secretariat and People's Republic of Bangladesh,

### **II. Proceeding**

#### **A. Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

3. The meeting was opened by the D-8 Secretariat, which welcomed participants to the second meeting of the Expert Working Group. In the absence of the Chair, the Secretariat proceeded with the opening formalities and invited the Vice-Chair and co-host, Dr. Syed Muntasir MAMUN (Director General, International Trade, Investment and Technology Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh) to deliver welcoming remarks.
4. In his statement, the representative of Bangladesh recalled the main outcomes of the inaugural meeting held on 12 November 2025 and underscored the importance of a collective and coordinated approach to advancing the objectives of the D-8 PTA. He highlighted the need to strengthen trade cooperation among Member States, including in trade in goods and services, with particular emphasis on technology-driven areas over the 2026–2028 period. He concluded by introducing the members of the Bangladeshi delegation participating in the meeting.
5. The Secretariat subsequently gave the floor to the Vice-Chair from Indonesia, represented by Mr. Gangsar KURNIAWAN (Senior Trade Negotiator, Ministry

of Trade) who conveyed appreciation for the Secretariat's transparent and inclusive conduct of the Working Group's activities to date. He expressed hope for constructive deliberations and reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to working with all Member States towards possible expansion of the D-8 PTA.

6. In light of the continued absence of the Chair, the Secretariat invited the representative of Indonesia to preside over the meeting, to which the Working Group agreed.

**B. Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda**

7. The EWG adopted the agenda for its meeting. The annotated agenda is enclosed as **Annex II**.

**C. Agenda Item 3: Overview of the Working Group's Mandate, Timeline, and Key Milestones**

8. The Secretariat presented a visual infographic outlining the three principal deliverables of the Working Group, together with their respective timelines and substantive scope. The presentation highlighted the expected structure, content, and reporting requirements associated with each deliverable, as stipulated in the relevant provisions of the Terms of Reference (Articles 6 and 7). The visual infographic is enclosed as **Annex III**.

9. The three major deliverables were recalled as follows:

- the Initial Report, to be submitted by 12 March 2026;
- the Interim Technical Report, to be submitted by 12 July 2026; and
- the Final Scoping Report, to be submitted by 12 November 2026.

10. During the ensuing discussion, members reaffirmed their commitment to completing the work of the Expert Working Group within the one-year timeframe stipulated in the Terms of Reference, underscoring the importance of maintaining momentum and avoiding any extension of the mandate. It was noted that timely completion is essential to achieving clarity on the current implementation status of the D-8 PTA, identifying existing challenges, and supporting future troubleshooting efforts, as well as informing any potential consideration of expansion.

11. In this context, the representative from Pakistan underscored the importance of adhering to the agreed timeframe in order to preserve the relevance of the data, drew attention to the scope and workload of the technical work involved, and suggested the possible establishment of subgroups to facilitate progress. He further emphasized the need to address implementation-related challenges and

to clarify the envisaged nature of the agreement, including whether it should take the form of an FTA, FTA Plus, or a CEPA.

Discussions related to the substantive preparation of the Initial Report were deferred to the subsequent agenda item, in order to maintain focus and ensure coherence with the agenda.

**D. Agenda Item 4: Discussion on the Preparation of the Initial Report**

12. The EWG deliberated on the approach and overall framework for the preparation of the Initial Report, with a view to ensuring clarity of scope, effective coordination, and the timely delivery of the agreed output. The discussion was intended to facilitate a common understanding of the proposed methodology, analytical focus, sources of information, and work planning arrangements, as well as the division of responsibilities among participants.
13. In this context, the Chair emphasized the need to establish a clear timeline and milestones for the report's preparation, while also addressing concerns about the PTA's implementation challenges. He further suggested a phased approach for assessing the PTA's implementation status, balancing analytical depth with practicality given the tight timeline.
14. The Host and Vice-Chair from Bangladesh suggested a mixed-methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative data analysis and indicated readiness to contribute to the drafting of sections of the Initial Report related to trade facilitation and implementation challenges. The Rapporteur of the EWG from Türkiye emphasized the importance of statistical data, in particular import data from D-8 Member States, alongside engagement with relevant stakeholders, including national trade ministries, chambers of commerce, and customs authorities. He underscored Türkiye's readiness to contribute to the section of the Initial Report addressing the expansion of the D-8 PTA.
15. It was agreed that the Secretariat would coordinate the report's structure and compile inputs, with interested Member States volunteering to lead on specific sections. To this end, a draft outline of the Initial Report would be prepared by the Secretariat and made available to members of the Working Group through a secure, password-protected online platform. This approach was considered conducive to enabling simultaneous access and contributions, enhancing transparency, and accelerating the drafting process. Members would be invited to review and refine the proposed outline, as well as to contribute substantively to sections aligned with their expertise, interest, and availability of relevant information. The collaborative drafting process would be conducted under the supervision of Türkiye as the Rapporteur.

## **E. Agenda Item 5: Procedural and Substantive Matters**

### **a) Reporting lines and endorsement of Working Group outputs**

16. The EWG deliberated on the procedural requirements for the endorsement of its outputs, including meeting reports and the Terms of Reference, prior to their implementation. The discussion took into account the relevant provisions of the Terms of Reference concerning reporting to the D-8 PTA Supervisory Committee, as well as the call by the Trade Ministers at the Trade Ministerial Council held on 2 December 2025 to expedite the work of the Working Group.
17. Following the exchange of views, it was agreed that, in order to avoid any delays to the substantive work of the EWG, the Group would continue its activities in accordance with the timelines set out in the Terms of Reference and proceed with the preparation of its technical outputs.
18. It was further reaffirmed that the outputs of the EWG, including the Terms of Reference and the reports produced by EWG, shall be submitted for consideration and approval to the next session of the D-8 PTA Supervisory Committee, and subsequently to D-8 Trade Ministerial council (TMC). In this regard, it was recalled that the forthcoming ninth session of the Supervisory Committee is expected to be convened in the near term, most likely in the first quarter of 2026 by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, tentatively.

### **b) Possible minor refinements to the Terms of Reference**

19. The Secretariat tabled a proposal for minor refinements to the Terms of Reference, in particular, attention was drawn to paragraph 13(d) under the section [IV. Composition], the substance of which was also fully reflected in paragraph 16 under the section [V. Working Modalities].

Following consideration, the Working Group unanimously agreed to delete paragraph 13(d) in order to avoid duplication and ensure internal consistency of the document. The revised Terms of Reference of the Expert Working Group is enclosed as **Annex IV**.

## **F. Agenda Item 6: Summary of Agreed Next Steps and Timeline**

20. The Chair invited the Secretariat to summarize the main points of discussion, decisions taken, and the agreed timeline for future work. It was recalled that, as agreed during the preceding deliberations, the Expert Working Group would continue its work and adhere to the timelines set out in the Terms of Reference while parallel efforts are made to secure D-8 PTA Supervisory Committee's approval on EWG's TOR, reports produced, and additional decisions adopted during EWG's meetings.

21. With regard to the first deliverable of EWG, namely the Initial Report due by 12 March 2026, it was agreed that an outline would be prepared by the Secretariat and made available to members of the Working Group through a secure online platform, enabling members to access the document and contribute to its development.
22. It was further noted that the revised Terms of Reference, as agreed under the relevant agenda item, would be shared with members together with this meeting report.
23. The Secretariat encouraged Member States that have not yet done so to submit the latest PTA utilization data, in particular import and certificates of origin (COO) data, in order to support the preparation of the Initial Report and facilitate cross-verification.
24. The meeting also took note that the next meeting of the Expert Working Group is envisaged to be held virtually on 16 February 2026.

**G. Agenda Item 7: Closing of the Meeting**

25. The Chair expressed appreciation to all participants for their constructive engagement and active contributions. He reiterated the collective commitment of the Working Group to continue its work in a cooperative manner and to conclude its mandate within the agreed timeline. The meeting was then adjourned.

List of Accompanying Documents	
Annex I –	List of Participants
Annex II –	Adopted Annotated Agenda
Annex III –	Working Group’s Timeline and Key Milestones
Annex IV –	Revised Terms of Reference of EWG

*[End of the Adopted Report]*

## **List of Participants**

### **The Second Meeting of the Expert Working Group on Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA into a More Progressive Instrument**

**Virtual, 12 January 2026**

#### **Azerbaijan**

**Ms. Inara MUSTAFAYEVA AYYUBOVA**, Head of Department on Cooperation with International Organizations, Ministry of Economy

**Mr. Miralakbar ALAKBARLI**, Chief Advisor of Trade and Foreign Investment, Policy Department, Ministry of Economy

#### **Bangladesh**

**Dr. Syed Muntasir MAMUN**, Director General, International Trade, Investment and Technology Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Ruhul AMIN**, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### **Egypt**

**Mr. Gomaa M. MADNY**, Head of Trade Agreement Central Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade

**Ms. Nesreen Safwat ABDELATAH**, General Manager of the Regional Agreements Central Dep., Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade

#### **Indonesia**

**Mr. Gangsar KURNIAWAN**, Senior Trade Negotiator, Ministry of Trade

#### **Malaysia**

**Mr. FARHAN**, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

#### **Nigeria**

**Mr. Dauda YAH**, Principal Trade Officer, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment

#### **Pakistan**

**Dr. Mohammad ADNAN**, Joint Secretary (Director General), Ministry of Commerce

## **Türkiye**

**Ms. Ayşegül DEMİR**, Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade

**Mr. Nurullah Asım AKBULUT**, Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade

## **D-8 Secretariat**

**Amb. Mustafa ÖZCAN**, Director-I

**Ms. Zahra SETAREH**, Executive Assistant

**Dr. Ismail BELLO**, Executive Assistant

## Adopted Annotated Agenda

### Second Meeting of the Expert Working Group on the Expansion of the D-8 PTA

**Date:** 12 January 2026

**Format:** Virtual, co-hosted by People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Indicative duration:** 2.5 hours

#### Table of Contents

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting .....	1
Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda.....	1
Agenda Item 3: Overview of the Working Group's Mandate, Timeline, and Key Milestones .....	2
Agenda Item 4: Discussion on the Preparation of the Initial Report .....	2
Agenda Item 5: Procedural and Substantive Matters .....	2
Agenda Item 6: Summary of Agreed Next Steps and Timeline .....	3
Agenda Item 7: Closing of the Meeting .....	3

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

*(Indicative duration: 10 minutes)*

- The meeting will be opened by the Chair (Arab Republic of Egypt)<sup>1</sup> / ~5–6 minutes
- Vice-Chair & Host (Bangladesh) delivers Welcoming remarks in its capacity as host / ~2–3 minutes
- The Secretariat will provide a brief introductory briefing on developments to date, including the establishment of the Expert Working Group, its mandate, and immediate expectations, with a view to framing the discussions under the subsequent agenda items / ~1–2 minutes

#### **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

*(Indicative duration: 5 minutes)*

The Working Group will consider and adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting, as circulated.

---

<sup>1</sup> In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair from Indonesia presided over the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 3: Overview of the Working Group's Mandate, Timeline, and Key Milestones**

*(Indicative duration: 15 minutes)*

The Secretariat will present an overview of the Working Group's mandate, reporting lines, and indicative timeline for deliverables, including the preparation of the Initial Report due by 12 March 2026.

Subject to availability, the Secretariat may share a visual timeline or roadmap illustrating key milestones and sequencing of work.

The Working Group is invited to exchange views on the proposed timeline and confirm key milestones.

### **Agenda Item 4: Discussion on the Preparation of the Initial Report**

*(Indicative duration: 70 minutes)*

The Working Group will discuss the approach, scope, and division of responsibilities for the preparation of the Initial Report, with a view to ensuring its timely submission.

In this context, the Working Group is invited to exchange views on:

- the proposed approach for setting out the methodology and key elements of the study;
- modalities for assessing the implementation status of the D-8 PTA, including the scope and level of analysis;
- identification of relevant data sources, including national, regional, and international inputs;
- options for proposing a stakeholder engagement plan, including key stakeholders and forms of engagement; and
- a preliminary roadmap for mapping out the work schedule, including internal milestones over the two-month period.

The discussion is expected to result in a shared understanding of the structure of the Initial Report, allocation of drafting responsibilities, and an agreed timeline for its preparation.

### **Agenda Item 5: Procedural and Substantive Matters**

*(Indicative duration: 35 minutes)*

Under this agenda item, the Working Group will consider the following matters:

#### **a) Reporting lines and endorsement of Working Group outputs**

The Chair will introduce the issue of whether reports and decisions adopted by the Expert Working Group, including the Meeting Reports and the Terms of Reference (TOR), require endorsement by the D-8 PTA Supervisory Committee (SC) prior to their implementation.

The discussion will take into account:



- relevant provisions of the Terms of Reference regarding reporting to the Supervisory Committee; and
- the call by the Trade Ministers at the Trade Ministerial Council (TMC) held on 02 December 2025 to expedite the work of the Working Group.

The Working Group is invited to exchange views with a view to clarifying the procedural approach, taking into account the need to ensure both institutional coherence and timely progress.

#### **b) Possible minor refinements to the Terms of Reference**

The Secretariat will draw attention to minor, technical refinements identified in the Terms of Reference, aimed at improving clarity and consistency of the text.

The Working Group may consider whether to reopen the Terms of Reference for limited adjustments, as appropriate.

#### **c) Additional briefings related to the implementation status of the D-8 PTA**

The Secretariat may share brief, relevant updates or contextual information related to the implementation status of the D-8 PTA, as available.

### **Agenda Item 6: Summary of Agreed Next Steps and Timeline**

*(Indicative duration: 10 minutes)*

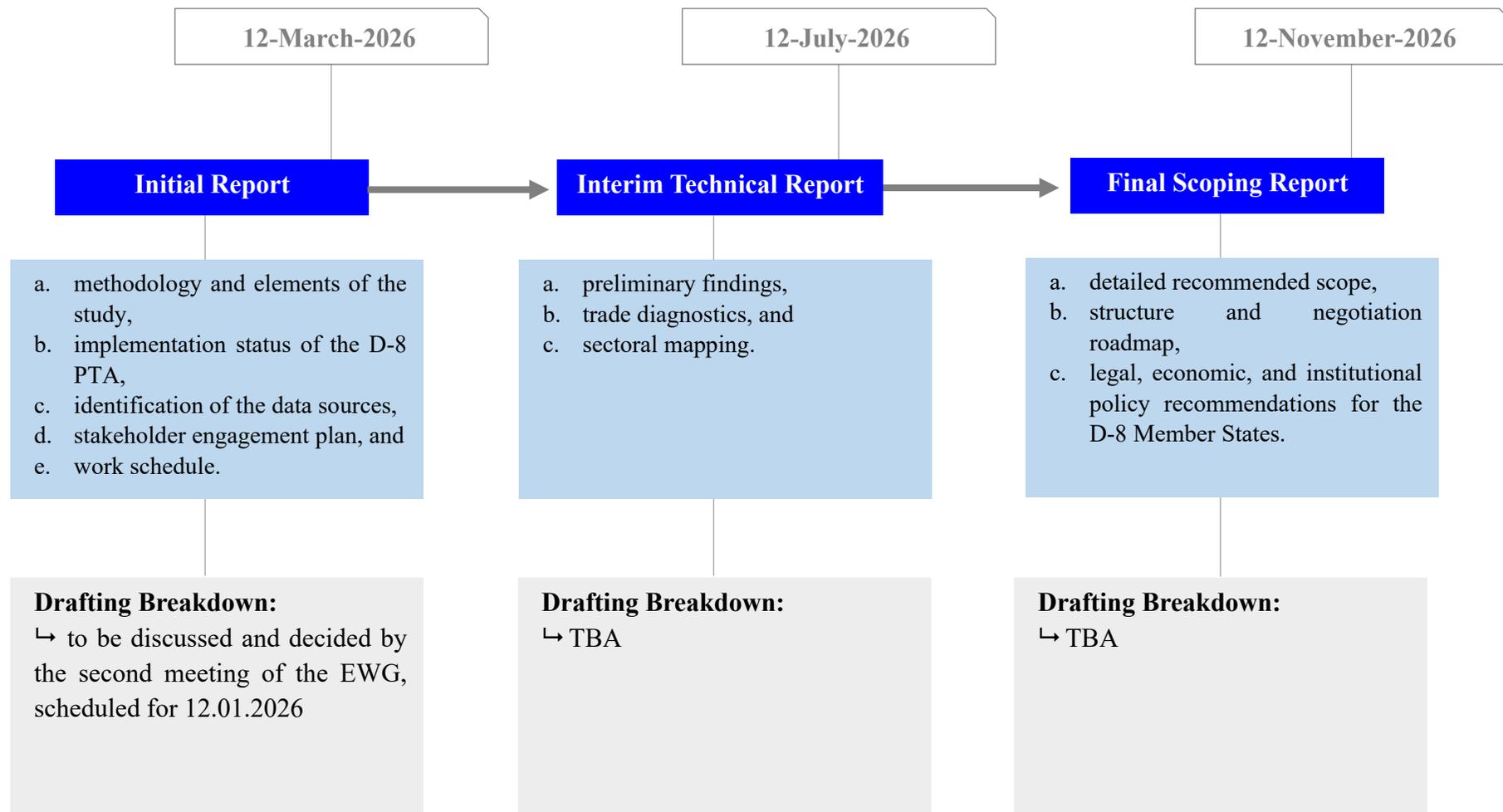
The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will summarize the main points of discussion, agreed actions, allocation of responsibilities, and next steps, including key dates and milestones leading to the submission of the Initial Report.

### **Agenda Item 7: Closing of the Meeting**

*(Indicative duration: 5 minutes)*

The Chair will close the meeting.

## Deliverables & Timeline (in accordance with EWG TOR)





## Terms of Reference

# Expert Working Group on Scoping Exercise to Expand the D-8 PTA Into a More Progressive Instrument

### Executive Summary

*During the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit, hosted by Egypt in Cairo on 19 December 2024, the Heads of State and Government of the D-8 Member States provided the much-needed political guidance, by noting with keen interest the discourse on the need to upgrade the D-8 PTA to a more progressive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, and tasked the D-8 Trade Ministers Council to conduct a study, scoping exercise, and comparative analysis to identify the modalities and way forward for the expansion of the D-8 PTA. This Terms of Reference (TOR) offers the rationale, modalities, and technical aspects for the establishment of an expert working group (EWG), to conduct the scoping exercise for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA,) among the D-8 Member States.*

### Table of Contents

I. Background.....	2
II. Purpose .....	3
III. Objectives .....	4
IV. Composition .....	4
V. Working Modalities .....	5
VI. Deliverables .....	5
VII. Timeline.....	5
VIII. Funding.....	6
IX. Final Outcome .....	6

## I. Background

1. The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1997 to enhance the position of its Member States in the global economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, increase participation in international decision-making, and improve the standards of living of its members. The D-8 comprises prominent emerging economies, spanning three continents, namely, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye.
2. Trade and economic cooperation have consistently remained at the heart of D-8's mandate. The Organization recognizes intra-group trade as a key driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Since its inception, the D-8 has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate and deepen economic integration among its members, including the adoption of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA), which was signed in 2006 and entered into force in 2011. The D-8 PTA aims to foster intra-D-8 trade through mutually agreed-upon tariff concessions, thereby reducing barriers to trade in goods.
3. In addition to its PTA, the D-8 has also adopted key instruments and frameworks to facilitate trade and business interactions among its Member States, such as the Multilateral Agreement Among D-8 Member Countries on Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (D-8 Customs Agreement), 2006 and the Agreement on "Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States" (D-8 Visa Agreement), 2001. The D-8 PTA itself is also equipped with supporting instruments, namely the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Protocol, 2024, the Trade Facilitation Strategy, 2024, and the Rules of Origin operational manual.
4. The D-8 has also initiated relevant cooperation programs, particularly in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), youth empowerment, industrial cooperation, agriculture and food security, the digital economy, and the blue economy.
5. Despite those critical achievements, the volume of intra-D-8 trade remains below its potential. As of 2024, intra-group trade is valued at US\$146 billion, far below the target of US\$500 billion set by the Leaders. Structural and infrastructure constraints continue to hamper deeper integration.
6. Recognizing the need for a more ambitious, liberalized, and comprehensive framework that goes beyond tariff preferences, the D-8 is now poised to explore the development of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA). This initiative aims to evolve the PTA into a more comprehensive trade and economic agreement that encompasses not only goods but also services,

investment, digital trade, intellectual property, competition policy, and other contemporary trade-related disciplines.

7. The discussion to expand the D-8 PTA into a deeper and more liberalized instrument gained traction after the initial deliberation during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers' Council (3<sup>rd</sup> TMC), which Bangladesh hosted in Dhaka on 5 March 2024. The subsequent Informal Meeting of the D-8 Trade and Commerce Ministers, held in Istanbul on 10 June 2024, further solidified the discourse on the need for a more comprehensive agreement. Furthermore, during the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit, hosted by Egypt in Cairo on 19 December 2024, the Heads of State and Government of the D-8 Member States provided the much-needed political guidance, by noting with keen interest the discourse on the need to upgrade the D-8 PTA to a more progressive instrument, such as a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, and tasked the D-8 Trade Ministers Council to conduct a study, scoping exercise, and comparative analysis to identify the modalities and way forward for the expansion of the D-8 PTA.
8. Subsequently, during its 8<sup>th</sup> Session held in Abuja on 16 June 2025, the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA (SC PTA) agreed to establish an expert working group to lay a foundation for the scoping exercise and comparative studies to expand the D-8 PTA into a more comprehensive instrument.
9. The CEPA is envisioned to serve as a strategic platform to deepen economic integration among D-8 Member States, build resilient value chains, enhance the D-8's competitiveness in the global economy, facilitate intra-D-8 investment, and position the D-8 as a leading economic bloc of the Global South.
10. To begin this process, a scoping exercise is required to assess the feasibility, scope, and potential modalities of the CEPA. This will lay the groundwork for structured negotiations. To that end, the Secretariat proposes the establishment of an ad hoc Expert Working Group (EWG), to undertake this technical and analytical work and provide informed recommendations to the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA. The EWG will be dissolved upon the decision by the Supervisory Committee.

## II. Purpose

11. The purpose of the Expert Working Group is to conduct a comprehensive scoping exercise that will:
  - a. Assess the readiness of the D-8 Member States to engage in a deeper and more liberalized economic partnership.

- b. Identify key areas and sectors for economic cooperation and trade liberalization.
- c. Recommend the scope, structure, and guiding principles to expand the D-8 PTA into a more progressive instrument, such as CEPA.
- d. Propose a roadmap for the expansion of the D-8 PTA into a more progressive instrument, including its potential negotiation process.

### **III. Objectives**

12. The specific objectives of the Expert Working Group are to:
  - a. Conduct a comprehensive feasibility study for the modalities and way forward for the possibility of a CEPA.
  - b. Review the legal, institutional, and operational status of the D-8 PTA, and related trade frameworks.
  - c. Assess trade flows, investment trends, tariff and non-tariff measures, and trade complementarities among the D-8 Member States.
  - d. Identify strategic sectors and policy areas for deepened cooperation, such as services, investment, digital trade, intellectual property, competition policy, and sectoral cooperation.
  - e. Propose the conceptual and operational framework of the CEPA, including potential coverage, negotiation modalities, and institutional mechanisms.
  - f. Recommend a structured roadmap and preparatory steps for formal negotiations.

### **IV. Composition**

13. The Expert Working Group will be composed of:
  - a. Two experts from each D-8 Member State, nominated by their respective ministries responsible for trade or commerce affairs.
  - b. Technical staff from the D-8 Secretariat, who will act as facilitators and serve as the secretariat of the EWG.
  - c. Resource persons from relevant international organizations, if applicable, and subject to the Member States' consensus.

## V. Working Modalities

14. The EWG will operate under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA and report to the Supervisory Committee through the Secretariat.
15. Meetings will be conducted physically or virtually, based on feasibility and consensus.
16. The EWG will elect its chairman, two vice-chairmen, and rapporteur at its inaugural meeting.
17. The decisions of the EWG shall be made by consensus where possible. In case a consensus is not reached, the EWG shall decide by a two-thirds majority of total votes<sup>1</sup>.
18. The Secretariat will provide secretarial support for the preparation and organization of the meetings by the host country.

## VI. Deliverables

19. The Expert Working Group will produce the following key outputs:
  - a. Initial Report to outline methodology, elements of the study, the implementation status of the D-8 PTA, data sources, stakeholder engagement plan, and work schedule.
  - b. Interim Technical Report, to present preliminary findings, trade diagnostics, and sectoral mapping.
  - c. Final Scoping Report, to present the detailed recommended scope, structure, and negotiation roadmap, including legal, economic, and institutional policy recommendations for the D-8 Member States.

## VII. Timeline

20. The EWG is expected to complete its work within a year from the date of its formal establishment, which may be extended to another year.
21. In addition to intersessional work, research, and studies, the EWG is expected to meet regularly, at least once every two months. In order to maintain momentum, at its every meeting, the EWG shall decide the date and venue/mode of its next meeting.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 27, paragraph 3 of the D-8 PTA.

22. The EWG will conduct progress reviews at least every four months and present the report to the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA.
23. The following timetable will serve as a guide for the initial work of the EWG:

Month*	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
EWG Inaugural Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>											
Initial Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
EWG Bimonthly Meeting				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quarterly Progress Report				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Interim Technical Report								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Final Scoping Report												<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

\*Does not denote the name of the month of the calendar.

## VIII. Funding

24. The EWG is designed to operate cost-effectively in carrying out its activities such as performing studies, engaging with stakeholders, and hosting meetings, particularly through optimum utilization of digital technologies. The Member States are invited to provide initial voluntary funding support outside the regular assessed contribution to enable the EWG to conduct its initial tasks. Whereas a portion of the relevant sub-heading from the D-8 Secretariat's budget may be drawn to support the EWG as necessary.
25. Further financial implications that may emanate from the participation of the EWG members in meetings are to be borne by the sending Member States, unless specified otherwise in the corresponding administrative arrangements for any meeting or activities.
26. Contributions from third parties are also welcome.

## IX. Final Outcome

27. The EWG will produce a Final Report (Scoping Paper), to present the detailed recommended scope, structure, and negotiation roadmap, including legal, economic, and institutional policy recommendations for the D-8 Member States, which will be submitted to the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA



for the Committee's consideration and subsequent recommendation by the D-8 Trade Ministers Council and the final adoption of the Summit.

*[End of Terms of Reference]*