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PRESS RELEASE

D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION

D-8 MEMBER STATES HOLD HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON VISA FACILITATION

The Secretariat of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) convened a high-level virtual meeting to discuss matters relating to visa arrangements aimed at facilitating mobility, enhancing connectivity, and deepening economic cooperation among the D-8 Member States.

The Meeting, chaired by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, brought together D-8 Commissioners and senior representatives of Member States to deliberate on proposals for easing travel arrangements among participating countries.

In his remarks, H.E. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization, emphasized that improved mobility and streamlined travel procedures were essential for advancing economic integration, strengthening institutional cooperation, and promoting greater private sector engagement across the D-8 region.

The Secretary-General added that streamlined visa and travel arrangements would contribute directly to stronger trade and investment links, accelerated project implementation, enhanced institutional coordination, and increased people-to-people contacts across the D-8 geography.

Highlighting the growing importance of 'soft connectivity,' Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that this proposed approach aligned with the priorities set out in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030, particularly the Organization's objective to expand intra-D-8 trade and deepen economic integration.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of "Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States"; noted existing bilateral arrangements for visa exemption for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service passports; and considered way to facilitate the accredited business-persons.

Member States exchanged views on the legal, technical, and operational aspects of the subject, while underscoring the importance of developing practical and mutually-beneficial arrangements that would contribute to greater mobility, connectivity, economic cooperation, and P2P linkages.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the readiness of the D-8 Secretariat to continue facilitating consultations and providing technical coordination support to advance the process.



The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) comprises Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Azerbaijan, and is dedicated to promoting economic cooperation, trade expansion, and sustainable development among its Member States.



Istanbul, 11 May 2026