



A quarterly newsletter of the

# D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is a distinct pleasure to share the D-8 Newsletter for the Quarter January-March 2026 – the first since my assumption of responsibilities as Secretary-General from 1 January 2026.

This year marks the beginning of a new chapter in the evolution of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8). Building upon the momentum generated by the landmark 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit in Cairo, and the historic expansion of our Organization through the accession of Azerbaijan as its 9<sup>th</sup> Member State, the D-8 entered 2026 with renewed dynamism, expanding partnerships, and a stronger focus on delivering tangible outcomes for the Member States.

Today, in cumulative terms, the D-8 represents a community of more than 1.28 billion people and GDP exceeding USD 5 trillion. Situated across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, our Member States span a strategic geography, traverse key economic corridors, and possess vast human capital and material resources. Their geo-strategic and geo-economic weight and role is constantly growing. The potential for deeper cooperation -- in trade, investment, industry, agriculture, energy, transportation, tourism, science, technology, and innovation -- within the D-8 framework is enormous.

Against the backdrop of persistent global economic uncertainty, geopolitical shifts, technological transformation, and climate-related challenges, the imperatives of trans-regional collaboration and effective South-South cooperation are more evident than ever before. The D-8 remains uniquely positioned to serve as a platform for collective action, practical cooperation, and sustainable development among developing economies.

### This Issue's Highlights

SECOND INFORMAL RETREAT OF D-8 COMMISSIONERS HELD IN PAKISTAN

D-8 EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL VISIT TO TÜRKİYE

D-8 IS ADVANCING SECTORAL COOPERATION

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE STRATCOM SUMMIT 2026

The first quarter of 2026 was marked by a sharp focus on internal consolidation and external engagement. A significant part of the work pertained also to preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit and related meetings in Jakarta, which had to be postponed in view of the regional developments. During the quarter, significant efforts were undertaken to strengthen institutional capacity and effectiveness, enhance coordination among Member States, and advance the implementation of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030. Discussions during the Second Informal Retreat of D-8 Commissioners in Lahore in February 2026 underscored a shared resolve to build a more responsive, result-oriented, and future-ready Organization.

This period also witnessed the expansion of D-8's outreach to regional and international Organizations, development finance institutions, research bodies, business associations, and strategic partners. These interactions reflected growing recognition of the D-8 as a prominent actor in the evolving global economic landscape and helped generate new opportunities for collaboration in areas ranging from trade facilitation and investment promotion to development finance, capacity-building, innovation, and strategic communication.

As we move forward, our collective focus must remain firmly anchored in implementation and impact. Clearly, the success of the D-8 will ultimately be measured by the outcomes and practical benefits delivered to Member States and their peoples. Advancing intra-D-8 trade, strengthening economic connectivity, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, mobilizing investment, enhancing institutional capacity, and promoting sustainable development will, therefore, remain at the core of our endeavors.

The Secretariat remains committed to supporting Member States in translating shared aspirations into tangible achievements, while working to enhance the Organization's visibility, effectiveness, and global profile. Through solidarity, partnership, and collective action, we can further unlock the vast untapped potential of the D-8 and contribute meaningfully to resilience, sustainable growth, and enhanced prosperity across the D-8 geography.

Together, we will continue building a stronger, more dynamic, and more impactful D-8.

**Ambassador Sohail Mahmood**

Secretary-General

D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8)



## HEADLINES

- D-8 AT A GLANCE ..... 1
- INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS ..... 2
- STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT ... 4
- HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL VISIT TO TÜRKİYE ..... 9

## D-8 AT A GLANCE

### MEMBER STATES



- BANGLADESH
- EGYPT
- INDONESIA
- IRAN
- MALAYSIA
- NIGERIA
- PAKISTAN
- TÜRKİYE
- AZERBAIJAN

**FOUNDATION DATE: 15 JUNE 1997**

**HEADQUARTERS: ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**POPULATION: MORE THAN 1.28 BILLION**

**COMBINED GDP: OVER USD 5 TRILLION**

#### **PRIORITY SECTORS:**

- TRADE
- AGRICULTURE
- INDUSTRY
- ENERGY
- TRANSPORTATION
- TOURISM

**INTRA-D-8 TRADE: USD 157 BILLION (2024)**

**2030 TARGET: USD 500 BILLION INTRA-D-8 TRADE**

#### **GUIDING FRAMEWORK:**

**D-8 CHARTER AND D-8 DECENNIAL ROADMAP 2020–2030**



## INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS

### **NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF D-8 AMID RENEWED INSTITUTIONAL MOMENTUM**



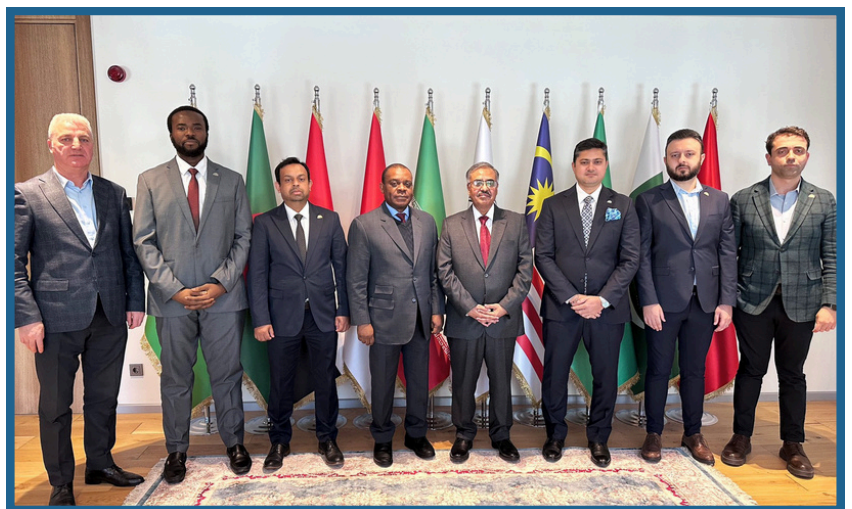
A leadership change at the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation commenced on 1 January 2026 with the assumption of office by H.E. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the 6<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General of the Organization. The transition was realized through a handover ceremony held at the D-8 Secretariat Headquarters on 2 January 2026. The event symbolized both continuity and renewal as the Organization remains on-course in an important phase of institutional strengthening and strategic growth and expansion.

During the ceremony, the outgoing Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, reflected on the achievements during his tenure from 2022 to 2025, including progress in advancing economic cooperation among Member States, strengthening the Secretariat's institutional capacity, and enhancing the Organization's international profile. He also expressed appreciation to Member States and Secretariat staff for their dedication and support.

In his inaugural remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood paid tribute to his predecessor's contributions and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the D-8's strategic objectives. He highlighted the vast economic potential of the Organization and underscored the importance of translating it into practical outcomes through the implementation of priority programmes, flagship initiatives, and institutional reforms.

The Secretary-General highlighted the need to further strengthen the D-8's visibility, effectiveness, and impact while ensuring closer coordination with Member States and development partners in pursuit of the objectives enshrined in the D-8 Charter and the Decennial Roadmap.

The ceremony concluded with the signing of the handover minutes and a group photograph, formally marking the commencement of Ambassador Sohail Mahmood's tenure as Secretary-General.



## SECOND INFORMAL RETREAT OF D-8 COMMISSIONERS ADVANCES PREPARATIONS FOR THE 12TH SUMMIT

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional effectiveness and advance preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit, Commissioners and senior representatives of all Member States convened in Lahore, Pakistan, on 5-6 February 2026 for the Second Informal Retreat of D-8 Commissioners.



Building on the outcomes of the inaugural Retreat held in Baku in October 2025 and the 50<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting in Cairo, the Retreat provided a valuable platform for strategic reflection on the future direction of the Organization.

Discussions focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of the Secretariat, enhancing operational efficiency, mobilizing adequate human and financial resources, and improving implementation mechanisms to support the Organization's expanding agenda.

Preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit, scheduled to take place in Jakarta in April 2026, also featured prominently on the agenda. Participants exchanged views on priority deliverables, organizational reforms, and measures aimed at ensuring a substantive and results-oriented Summit process.



The Retreat marked the first participation of Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood in a Commissioners' meeting since assuming office. In his intervention, he stressed the importance of collective ownership, stronger coordination, and strategic focus in advancing the D-8 agenda in an increasingly complex global environment.

The discussions reaffirmed Member States' shared commitment to strengthening the Organization's effectiveness, enhancing cooperation across priority sectors, and ensuring that the D-8 remains responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The Retreat concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence as Member States intensified preparations for the Jakarta Summit and the next phase of the Organization's development.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

### EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A STRONGER AND MORE CONNECTED D-8

Strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations remains a key pillar of the D-8's efforts to enhance its effectiveness, expand its outreach, and deliver greater value to Member States. During the first quarter of 2026, the Secretariat intensified engagement with governmental institutions, regional organizations, development finance entities, and strategic partners to advance cooperation across priority sectors and support the implementation of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030.

### MALAYSIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE D-8 AGENDA



On 9 January 2026, D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood met with H.E. Dato' Sri Amran Mohamed Zin, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, at a working breakfast in Istanbul.

The meeting underscored Malaysia's longstanding commitment to the D-8 process and provided an opportunity to exchange views on the Organization's priorities in the lead-up to the 12<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit in Jakarta.

Discussions focused on strengthening economic cooperation among Member States, sustaining the momentum generated by the 11<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit in Cairo, and advancing implementation of key D-8 initiatives and agreements. Regional and international developments of mutual interest were also discussed.



Congratulating Ambassador Sohail Mahmood on assuming office as Secretary-General, H.E. Dato' Sri Amran Mohamed Zin expressed confidence in his leadership and reaffirmed Malaysia's support for efforts aimed at strengthening the Organization's effectiveness and impact.

The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of Member States to advancing the D-8's strategic objectives and enhancing its role as a platform for economic cooperation among developing economies.

## D-8 AND SESRIC DEEPEN COOPERATION IN RESEARCH, STATISTICS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The D-8 Secretariat and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) reaffirmed their commitment to expanding institutional cooperation during a meeting held in Istanbul on 9 January 2026.

H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of SESRIC, met with the Secretary-General to discuss opportunities for strengthening collaboration in support of sustainable development and evidence-based policymaking across Member States.



Recognizing the complementary mandates of the two institutions and their extensive overlapping membership, both sides underscored the importance of closer coordination in areas of shared interest, including trade, agriculture, energy, transportation, tourism, industry, science and technology, health, and youth development. Particular attention was devoted to enhancing cooperation in statistical analysis, policy research, technical training, and capacity-building programmes. Discussions also explored opportunities for joint studies, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and collaborative policy development activities.

The meeting highlighted the growing importance of data-driven policymaking in addressing contemporary development challenges and reaffirmed the shared commitment of both institutions to supporting Member States through practical and impactful cooperation.

## D-8 AND BSEC EXPLORE NEW AVENUES FOR PROJECT-BASED COOPERATION

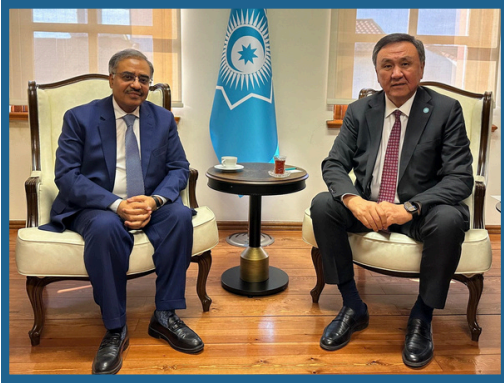


As part of efforts to strengthen relations with regional organizations, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood visited the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in Istanbul on 21 January 2026 for consultations with H.E. Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, Secretary-General of BSEC.

The discussions focused on the evolving global economic landscape and the growing importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing shared challenges. Both sides emphasized the need for stronger partnerships among regional organizations to promote sustainable growth, economic resilience, and regional connectivity. Recognizing the complementarities between the respective mandates and priorities of D-8 and BSEC, the two Secretaries-General explored practical opportunities for collaboration in areas such as project development, institutional capacity-building, economic cooperation, and knowledge exchange.

Particular attention was accorded to BSEC's experience in project financing and implementation, with the D-8 expressing interest in benefiting from best practices that could support the Organization's growing portfolio of initiatives. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of both organizations to operationalizing the existing Memorandum of Understanding and advancing cooperation through concrete, result-oriented activities.

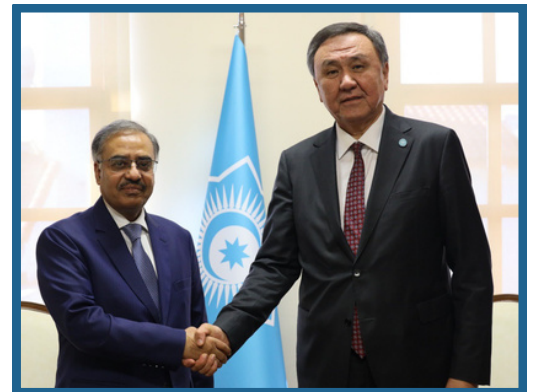
## D-8 AND THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES ADVANCE PARTNERSHIP



The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) took important steps toward strengthening institutional collaboration during a meeting between their respective Secretaries-General in Istanbul on 28 January 2026.

Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood met with H.E. Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, Secretary-General of OTS, to discuss regional developments and opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the two organizations.

The discussions reflected the growing recognition that collaboration among regional and international organizations can play an important role in addressing common economic and development challenges. Both sides highlighted the strong convergence between the objectives of D-8 and OTS, particularly in areas related to trade, investment, economic integration, transportation, tourism, and business connectivity. The meeting explored mechanisms for institutionalizing cooperation through structured engagement, regular consultations, and joint initiatives that could generate tangible benefits for member countries of both organizations.



Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood briefed his counterpart on recent developments within the D-8, including the successful expansion of the Organization, preparations for the Jakarta Summit, and ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and international outreach. The two Organizations reaffirmed their commitment to advancing practical cooperation and building a stronger partnership in support of sustainable economic development and regional prosperity.

## D-8 AND ADFIMI LAUNCH NEW COOPERATION TRACK ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCE



Development finance emerged as another important area of cooperation during a meeting between the D-8 Secretariat and the Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI) on 30 January 2026. Led by ADFIMI Secretary-General Mr. İlhami Öztürk, the discussions focused on opportunities for collaboration in development finance, SME support, capacity-building, financial inclusion, and Halal economy initiatives.

Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the critical role of development finance institutions in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth, particularly in developing economies. He stressed the importance of mobilizing financial resources, strengthening institutional capacities, and fostering partnerships capable of translating development priorities into practical outcomes. The ADFIMI delegation emphasized the Organization's unique role as a platform connecting development finance institutions across the Islamic Development Bank membership and highlighted its potential to facilitate cooperation between the D-8 and the broader IsDB ecosystem.

Both sides identified several promising areas for collaboration, including training programmes for financial institutions, sharing of successful development finance models, support for SMEs and entrepreneurship, and initiatives related to Halal trade finance and microfinance.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDS MÜSİAD'S DIPLOMATIC IFTAR PROGRAM



Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood attended the Traditional Diplomatic Missions Iftar Programme hosted by MÜSİAD (Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association) in Istanbul on 3 March 2026.

During the event, the Secretary-General highlighted MÜSİAD's important role in promoting business cooperation through its extensive network of entrepreneurs and industrialists with a strong international presence. He also briefed the participants on the continued growth and institutional development of the D-8 Organization, including its recent expansion.

## D-8 SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDS ATATÜRK INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE CEREMONY



Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood attended the Atatürk International Peace Prize Award Ceremony held at the Presidential Complex in Ankara on 12 March 2026.

On the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood congratulated H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on receiving this prestigious award from H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. He noted that the distinction reflects a lifetime of dedicated service to humanity and recognized UN Secretary-General. Guterres' unwavering commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, international law, multilateralism, and sustainable development.

## PARTICIPATION IN STRATCOM SUMMIT 2026 IN ISTANBUL

D-8 Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood participated in the International Strategic Communication Summit (STRATCOM Summit) 2026, held in Istanbul on 27-28 March 2026 under the theme “Disruption in the International System: Crises, Narratives, and Search for Order.” Organized by the Directorate of Communications of the Republic of Türkiye, the Summit brought together senior government officials, international organizations, media leaders, academics, and policy experts to discuss the rapidly evolving global communication landscape.



Throughout the two-day event, discussions focused on major global challenges, including geopolitical tensions, competing narratives, misinformation and disinformation, the future of international governance, and the growing impact of artificial intelligence on communication and media.

On the sidelines of the Summit, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood held a number of high-level meetings. He met with H.E. Zahir Uddin Swapon, Minister of Information and Broadcasting of Bangladesh, to discuss strengthening media cooperation among D-8 Member States and enhancing the Organization’s visibility and outreach.

The Secretary-General also met with Mr. Ahmed Ismayilov, Head of the Media Development Agency of Azerbaijan, where discussions focused on ongoing efforts to establish the D-8 Media Excellence Center in Azerbaijan and promote closer collaboration among media institutions across D-8 countries.

In his interaction with Prof. Dr. Burhanettin Duran, Head of Communications of the Republic of Türkiye, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood commended the Summit’s contribution to global dialogue on strategic communication and explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the D-8 Secretariat and the Directorate of Communications.

The Secretary-General’s participation in STRATCOM Summit 2026 underscored D-8’s commitment to strengthening cooperation in media, communication, and public diplomacy, while fostering greater understanding and collaboration among its Member States in an increasingly interconnected world.

## HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL VISIT TO TÜRKİYE

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL UNDERTAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO TÜRKİYE TO ADVANCE D-8 REFORM, OUTREACH AND SUMMIT PREPARATIONS**

In his first official visit since assuming office on 1 January 2026, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood visited Ankara from 23-25 February 2026. The visit served to further strengthen coordination with the Republic of Türkiye as the host country of the D-8 Secretariat and reaffirm the shared commitment to advancing the Organization's institutional transformation and strategic priorities.

As a founding member of the D-8 and host of its Secretariat since the Organization's establishment in 1997, Türkiye continues to play a central role in supporting the D-8's development and expanding its international profile. The visit provided an opportunity for extensive consultations with senior government officials, policymakers, business leaders, and institutional stakeholders on the future direction of the Organization and preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit in Jakarta.

The Secretary-General was accompanied by Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director-I of the D-8 Secretariat, and Mr. Muhammad Bilal Khan, Executive Assistant.

### **STRENGTHENING COORDINATION WITH THE HOST COUNTRY**

The visit commenced with a working Iftar hosted by H.E. Ambassador Aylin Sekizkök, D-8 Commissioner of the Republic of Türkiye.

The discussions focused on the Organization's ongoing reform efforts, preparations for the Jakarta Summit, strengthening coordination between the Secretariat and Member States, and enhancing the effectiveness of the D-8 institutional framework.



Both sides underscored the importance of ensuring that the D-8 remains responsive to emerging economic realities while maintaining a clear focus on implementation, delivery, and measurable outcomes.

## CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



A central component of the visit was a series of meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye. The Secretary-General held consultations with Deputy Foreign Ministers H.E. Musa Kulaklıkaya and H.E. Berris Ekinci, focusing on the Organization's strategic direction, institutional strengthening, and preparations for the Jakarta Summit.

Discussions addressed efforts to enhance the Secretariat's human and financial resources, streamline institutional processes, strengthen engagement with Member States, and expand partnerships with regional and international organizations. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that the Jakarta Summit delivers concrete outcomes aligned with the priorities of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030.

## MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HAKAN FIDAN



During his call on H.E. Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood conveyed appreciation for Türkiye's long-standing support for the D-8 and its continued commitment as host country of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General briefed the Foreign Minister on his vision and priorities for the Organization, including institutional reform, strengthening implementation mechanisms, expanding international outreach, and enhancing the visibility and effectiveness of the D-8.

The exchanges also highlighted the growing strategic significance of D-8 Member States, which collectively connect some of the world's most important economic, transportation, trade, and energy corridors across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

Reference was made to major international initiatives being hosted by Türkiye, including the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF) and the country's Presidency of COP31 during 2026. Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation in areas related to economic diplomacy, sustainable development, and international engagement. Minister Fidan reaffirmed Türkiye's strong support for the D-8 and shared valuable perspectives on enhancing the Organization's impact and international profile.

## ADVANCING THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGENDA



Economic cooperation and trade integration featured prominently during the Secretary-General's meeting with H.E. Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye. The discussions focused on practical measures to expand intra-D-8 trade and accelerate implementation of key economic cooperation initiatives. Particular attention was devoted to strengthening private-sector engagement and supporting business-to-business connectivity among Member States.

The Secretary-General welcomed Türkiye's role in hosting the Permanent Secretariat of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) in Istanbul, describing it as a significant step toward institutionalizing private-sector participation within the D-8 framework.



Both sides also highlighted the importance of the D-8 Business and Investment Forum and Halal Expo, scheduled to take place on the margins of the Jakarta Summit, as valuable platforms for promoting trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and commercial partnerships among Member States.

## COOPERATION ON CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The Secretary-General's meeting with H.E. Murat Kurum, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, underscored the growing importance of climate cooperation within the D-8 agenda.

The discussions explored opportunities for collaboration in climate resilience, sustainable urbanization, environmental sustainability, and green transformation.

The Secretary-General also welcomed Türkiye's preparations to host COP31 in Antalya, affirming full support to Türkiye and noting the important role that the D-8 Member States can play in contributing to global discussions on sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and climate action.



## ENGAGEMENT AT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

At the Presidential Complex, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood was received by H.E. Cevdet Yılmaz, Vice President of the Republic of Türkiye.



The Secretary-General briefed the Vice President on preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> D-8 Summit and outlined efforts to strengthen the Organization's institutional capacity, international engagement, and programme delivery.



The exchange reaffirmed the importance attached by Türkiye to the continued growth and effectiveness of the D-8 as a leading platform for economic cooperation among developing countries.

The Secretary-General also had the honour of attending an Iftar hosted by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye.

## PROMOTING STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA COOPERATION

Recognizing the growing importance of strategic communication in contemporary international relations, the Secretary-General visited the Headquarters of TRT, Türkiye's national public broadcaster.



During his meeting with TRT Director General Prof. Dr. Mehmet Zahid Sobacı, discussions focused on opportunities for cooperation in media, public diplomacy, strategic communication, and digital outreach.

The Secretary-General emphasized the important role of both traditional and digital media in raising awareness about the D-8, strengthening people-to-people connections, and promoting the Organization's vision, achievements, and priorities to wider international audiences.

The discussions also reflected the D-8's increasing focus on communication, visibility, and narrative-building as essential components of institutional effectiveness.

## INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION

The Secretary-General's meeting with H.E. Mehmet Fatih Kacır, Minister of Industry and Technology, highlighted the growing importance of innovation and technology in driving sustainable economic growth. Commending Türkiye's emergence as a leading innovation hub, the Secretary-General explored opportunities for cooperation in advanced manufacturing, Industry 4.0 technologies, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and technology-driven industrial development.



The discussions reflected the D-8's broader objective of supporting innovation-led growth and enhancing technological collaboration among Member States.

## ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR



The visit also included consultations with the leadership of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB). Discussions focused on operationalizing the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry Secretariat and strengthening business connectivity among Member States ahead of the Jakarta Summit.

Both sides emphasized the vital role of the private sector in achieving the D-8's economic objectives and highlighted the importance of creating new opportunities for investment, entrepreneurship, and commercial cooperation.

## REINFORCING MOMENTUM FOR A STRONGER D-8

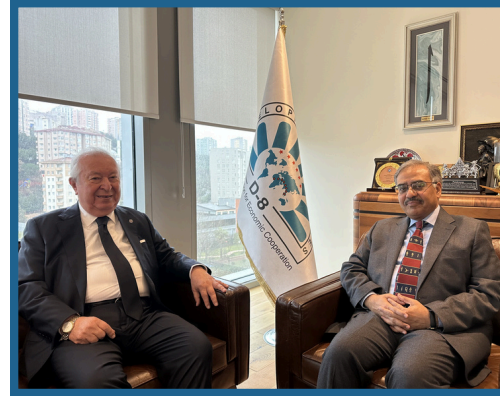
The Secretary-General also attended the Iftar hosted by H.E. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan for Ambassadors and Heads of Mission of Member and Observer States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Concluding the visit, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye for its warm hospitality and continued support for the D-8.



The visit reinforced strategic alignment between the Secretariat and the host country on a broad range of priorities, including institutional reform, economic cooperation, international outreach, and preparations for the Jakarta Summit. More importantly, it reflected a shared determination to strengthen the D-8 as a more dynamic, effective, and globally engaged Organization capable of delivering meaningful outcomes for its Member States and contributing to sustainable development across the developing world.

## COURTESY VISITS

Following his assumption of office, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood received a number of courtesy visits from distinguished diplomats, institutional representatives, and public figures during the first quarter of 2026. These engagements reflected the strong interest in and support for the D-8's evolving agenda under its new leadership, while also providing an opportunity to exchange views on areas of mutual interest.



On 7 January 2026, Khawaja Khurram Naeem, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Istanbul, paid a courtesy call on the Secretary-General. This was followed by a visit on 2 February 2026 by Mr. Akkan Suver, President of the Marmara Foundation, during which discussions touched upon dialogue, regional cooperation, and the role of civil society platforms in fostering international engagement.

On 18 February 2026, the Secretary-General received Mr. Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, Consul General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Istanbul, further reflecting the continued engagement of stakeholders from across the D-8 region.



On 3 March 2026, H.E. Ambassador Wael Ibrahim Ali Badawi, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Ankara, paid a courtesy visit to the Secretary-General. The exchange highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation among Member States and advancing shared economic priorities within the D-8 framework.

On 5 March 2026, the Secretary-General visited the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul to sign the condolence book opened on the occasion of the passing of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, conveying condolences and expressing solidarity.



On 28 March, Executive Director of Sanober Institute of Pakistan, Dr. Qamar Cheema paid a courtesy visit to the D-8 Secretariat and met with the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood.

The series of engagements concluded with a courtesy visit on 31 March 2026 by Mr. Atif Özbey, President of the SES Party of Türkiye. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the imperative of multilateral economic cooperation and the role of D-8 in this context. Mr. Atif Özbey, who had served for long years with former Turkish Prime Minister and founding father of D-8 Prof. Dr. Necmettin Erbakan, shared his recollections about the D-8 vision on the occasion.



Collectively, these interactions underscored the growing engagement with the D-8 Secretariat and reflected broad-based support for strengthening the Organization's role as a platform for economic cooperation and dialogue among its Member States and partners.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



## D-8 Secretariat

**Address:** Merkez, Cendere St. No:9 FerkoLine Residences  
Block A Floor:6 Kagithane-Istanbul / Türkiye

**Email:** [info@developing8.org](mailto:info@developing8.org)

**Portal:** [www.developing8.org](http://www.developing8.org)

### We are here:



D8org



D8org



developing8



D8org



D-8  
Organization



developing8