



A quarterly newsletter of the

D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The second Quarter of 2026 (April-June) covered in this Edition illustrates the persistently growing momentum of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) across its priority areas in sectoral cooperation as well as increasing international profile and visibility. The process of internal consolidation kept moving apace, while external engagement acquired new levels. Commemoration of the D-8's 29th anniversary on 15 June served both as a moment of reflection on the Organization's journey so far, and as an occasion to fortify the resolve to build a more impactful future.

Guided by the Charter and the Decennial Roadmap (2020-2030), the Organization further reinforced its endeavors to translate strategic vision into concrete action by strengthening its institutional capacity, launching new initiatives, deepening partnerships, and advancing practical cooperation. More importantly, the Quarter reflected a progressive transformation -- with the D-8 increasingly positioning as a dynamic, implementation-oriented, and forward-looking platform for South-South cooperation geared towards delivering tangible results for the Member States.

This period witnessed several landmark developments that will shape the Organization's future trajectory. The historic first-ever Meeting of D-8 Energy Ministers, hosted by Azerbaijan, established a new institutional pillar for regional energy cooperation through the adoption of the action-oriented 'Baku Declaration.' The 51st Session of the D-8 Commission, hosted by Türkiye in Ankara, reinforced progress towards advancing the Organization's strategic priorities and its efforts relating to institutional reforms, regional cooperation, and successful convening of the 12th D-8 Summit in Indonesia.

This Issue's Highlights

HISTORIC FIRST MEETING OF D-8 ENERGY MINISTERS HELD

51st SESSION OF D-8 COMMISSION AND 29th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION OF D-8 HELD IN ANKARA

D-8 EXPANDS GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AT ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM 2026

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO AZERBAIJAN OPENS NEW CHAPTER

D-8 EXPANDS STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

During the Commission meeting, the Arab Republic of Egypt announced the ratification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and its Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM), thereby completing the ratification process by all Contracting Parties and marking a historic milestone that paves the way for the full operationalization of the D-8's flagship trade agreement. The diplomatic reception graciously hosted by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara to commemorate the 29th anniversary of D-8 featured messages of strong support from its leadership for the Organization's renewed vigor and accelerating progress.

Beyond these institutional milestones, the Organization continued to expand cooperation across a wide spectrum of vital sectors. Important strides were made in promoting sustainability and climate action, MSME development, Artificial Intelligence, tourism cooperation, visa facilitation, regional connectivity, and trade and investment, while new initiatives focused on innovation, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among Member States. Cumulatively, these efforts demonstrate the D-8's growing emphasis on practical cooperation, assiduous follow-up and implementation, and measurable outcomes.

Equally important has been the continued transformation of the Secretariat itself. During the Quarter, the Secretariat moved beyond its traditional coordinating role by serving as a catalyst for innovation, strategic dialogue, and partnership-building. Through active engagement with Member States and enhanced outreach to international and regional organizations, development partners, academia, and the private sector, consistent efforts were made to commence new initiatives and facilitate beneficial collaboration. Participation in major global forums was utilized to transmit the D-8's strategic messaging and raise the Organization's international profile. This is evidently resulting in increased global awareness of the D-8's role, place and core mission as well as growing recognition of the Organization as an important platform for South-South cooperation.

Representing more than 1.28 billion people and a combined GDP exceeding US\$ 5 trillion, the D-8 continues to expand its geo-economic relevance in an increasingly inter-connected world. As global challenges demand more inclusive and cooperative approaches, the Organization is expanding its contribution to international discourse on trade, investment, sustainable development, energy transition, climate action, digital transformation, and regional connectivity, reinforcing its role as a notable voice from the 'Global South.'

As preparations gather momentum for the next D-8 Summit in Indonesia, the Organization enters this phase with renewed vigour and strategic purpose. The developments highlighted in this Edition demonstrate that the D-8 is steadily evolving into a more agile, innovation-driven, implementation-oriented, and partnership-focused Organization. Guided by the Charter and the Decennial Roadmap, the Secretariat remains fully committed to working closely with Member States and partners to build a stronger, more integrated and future-ready D-8 that delivers lasting benefits for its peoples.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood

Secretary-General

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



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STRENGTHENING D-8 INSTITUTIONS AND ADVANCING D-8 PROCESSES

HISTORIC FIRST MEETING OF D-8 ENERGY MINISTERS OPENS A NEW ERA OF REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION



The D-8 achieved a historic milestone with the successful convening of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Energy in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 1 June 2026. Held on the sidelines of Baku Energy Week under the theme "Enhancing Cooperation in Sectors of Hydrocarbon, Energy Transition and Energy Connectivity," the Ministerial Meeting marked the beginning of a new institutional framework for energy cooperation within the Organization.

Hosted by the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan and chaired by H.E. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, the Meeting brought together Ministers and senior representatives from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan and Türkiye, together with H.E. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Secretary-General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

Opening the Meeting, Minister Shahbazov emphasized the importance of closer cooperation in responding to evolving global energy challenges while reaffirming Azerbaijan's commitment to promoting regional energy security, sustainable development and diversified energy partnerships.

In his keynote address, the Secretary-General described the inaugural Ministerial Meeting as a landmark step in implementing the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020-2030). Stressing that energy remains a strategic pillar of regional cooperation, he proposed five priority areas for future collaboration: a comprehensive D-8 Energy Cooperation Framework and Action Plan; enhanced public and private investment; innovation and emerging technologies; technical cooperation and capacity-building; and stronger regional energy connectivity.



A major outcome of the Meeting was the adoption of the 'Baku Declaration on Energy Cooperation,' establishing a comprehensive framework for practical and result-oriented collaboration in renewable energy, hydrocarbons, cross-border connectivity, investment, technology, institutional coordination, and energy security.

The Meeting also welcomed the proposed Charter of the D-8 Energy and Climate Center (D-8 ECC), to be established in Baku, recognizing its potential to become a flagship institution for technical cooperation, research, innovation, investment promotion and capacity-building. Ministers further endorsed the establishment of a D-8 Energy Senior Officials Group (SOG) to facilitate implementation of Ministerial decisions.

By adopting the Baku Declaration and launching new institutional mechanisms, Member States reaffirmed their shared commitment to building a more secure, sustainable and interconnected energy future for the D-8 region.

D-8 COMMISSION CHARTS THE ORGANIZATION'S NEXT PHASE AS IT MARKS 29 YEARS OF COOPERATION



The second Quarter concluded with another important milestone as the 51st Session of the D-8 Commission convened in Ankara alongside events commemorating the 29th Anniversary of the Organization.

Hosted by the Republic of Türkiye under the Chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Commission reviewed progress achieved during the first half of 2026 while identifying strategic priorities for the months ahead.

Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood presented a comprehensive report on the Secretariat's activities across trade, energy, tourism, agriculture, science and technology, SMEs, youth, and connectivity. The Commissioners also reviewed preparations for the 12th D-8 Summit, ongoing institutional reforms, financial and administrative matters, and implementation of the D-8 Decennial Roadmap.



One of the Session's most significant developments was Egypt's announcement of the ratification of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM), marking another important step towards deeper regional economic integration.

RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TÜRKİYE AS D-8 MARKS ITS 29TH ANNIVERSARY



On the sideline of the 51st Session of the D-8 Commission in Ankara, a reception was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye to commemorate the Organization's 29th Anniversary.

In his address, the Secretary-General paid tribute to the vision of the late Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Necmettin Erbakan and reflected on the D-8's evolution since its establishment in Istanbul in 1997. He noted that the Organization now represents more than 1.28 billion people with a combined GDP exceeding US\$ 5.2 trillion, highlighting its growing relevance in responding to global challenges through stronger partnerships, institutional reforms, and practical cooperation.

D-8 MARKS ITS 29TH ANNIVERSARY WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE FOUNDING VISION



As part of the commemorative activities marking the 29th Anniversary of the D-8 Organization, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood participated in a special programme organized by the Saadet Party of the Republic of Türkiye at Çırağan Palace.

The event brought together senior political leaders, diplomats, academics, and representatives of civil society to reflect on the Organization's journey since its establishment in 1997.

Addressing the gathering, the Secretary-General paid rich tributes to the vision of the D-8's founding leaders -- particularly the late Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Necmettin Erbakan -- and highlighted the Organization's transformation into a dynamic platform promoting economic cooperation, sustainable development, and South-South partnership. Speakers reaffirmed the enduring relevance of the D-8's founding principles, emphasized enhanced role for D-8 in the wake of rapidly transforming global strategic and economic landscape, and looked forward to the Organization's next chapter of growth and cooperation.

D-8 ACCELERATES REGIONAL TRADE INTEGRATION THROUGH THE PTA SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Advancing regional trade integration remained a central priority as the D-8 convened the 9th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting brought together senior trade officials to review progress in implementing the Agreement and identify practical measures for strengthening intra-D-8 trade.



Addressing the Committee, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the need to transform the PTA into a more effective and result-oriented instrument by accelerating implementation, strengthening customs cooperation, facilitating trade, and enhancing private-sector engagement. Participants also reviewed the work of the Expert Working Group on expanding the PTA into a more comprehensive framework, marking another important step towards deeper economic integration among Member States.

The Committee concluded by electing the Republic of Indonesia as Chair of the Supervisory Committee for the next two-year term, reaffirming Member States' shared commitment to building a more integrated and dynamic regional trading system.

D-8 ADVANCES REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY THROUGH ENHANCED VISA FACILITATION

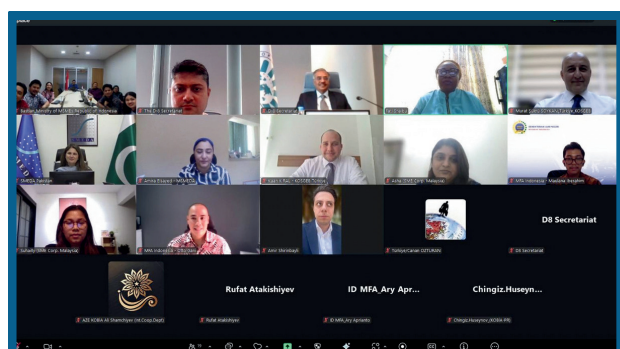
Recognizing that greater mobility is essential to deeper economic integration, the D-8 Secretariat convened a high-level virtual meeting of Commissioners and senior representatives of Member States to advance dialogue on visa facilitation and explore practical measures to simplify travel across the D-8 region. Chaired by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the meeting reaffirmed that facilitating the movement of business-persons, officials and citizens is a critical enabler of trade, investment, tourism, institutional cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.



Opening the meeting, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized that streamlined travel procedures constitute an important element of "soft connectivity" and complement the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020-2030) by strengthening commercial linkages and accelerating regional cooperation.

Participants reviewed progress in implementing the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the D-8 Member States, exchanged information on existing bilateral visa arrangements for holders of diplomatic and official passports, and examined practical options for expanding visa facilitation across the Organization. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to developing feasible visa arrangements that enhance regional connectivity and support the D-8's broader economic integration agenda. The Secretariat reaffirmed its readiness to continue facilitating consultations and providing technical support to Member States in this important area of cooperation.

D-8 MEMBER STATES STRENGTHEN REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE 9TH MEETING OF SME GOVERNMENTAL BODIES



Recognizing that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remain the backbone of D-8 economies, the Organization convened the 9th Meeting of D-8 SME Governmental Bodies, bringing together Member States to strengthen regional cooperation and advance a shared agenda for entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.

The virtual meeting reviewed ongoing initiatives, exchanged national experiences and identified practical measures to enhance SME competitiveness, innovation and sustainable development throughout the D-8 region. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening international partnerships, advancing the work of the D-8 SME Centre in Abuja, and developing coordinated action plans that support more resilient and competitive SME ecosystems.

Discussions further emphasized innovation-driven entrepreneurship, stronger institutional cooperation and the creation of an enabling business environment capable of supporting sustainable enterprise development. The meeting reaffirmed the collective determination of Member States to empower SMEs as key drivers of employment, economic resilience, and long-term prosperity across the D-8 region.

D-8 EXPLORES THE FUTURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN TOURISM



As digital technologies continue to reshape the global tourism industry, the D-8 Organization convened a High-Level Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Tourism on 9 April 2026, hosted virtually by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Bringing together senior tourism officials from Member States, the workshop examined how artificial intelligence can strengthen destination management, improve visitor experiences, enhance competitiveness and support the development of more resilient tourism sectors.

Chaired by H.E. Ms. Yomna Elbahar, Vice Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Egypt, the meeting provided a valuable forum for sharing policy experiences and exploring innovative approaches to digital transformation in tourism.

Representing the Secretariat, Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director-I, highlighted artificial intelligence as a strategic driver of innovation, competitiveness and evidence-based policymaking. He emphasized that embracing digital transformation will be essential to building smarter and more sustainable tourism sectors throughout the D-8 region. Participants exchanged national experiences in AI applications, including demand forecasting, destination management, and personalized tourism services. Discussions also focused on the proposed AI-powered Smart Tourism Platform, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and responsible AI governance, while emphasizing ethical standards and data protection.

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to deepen cooperation and accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies that will shape a more integrated, sustainable, and digitally connected tourism ecosystem across the D-8.

D-8 MARKS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY WITH ITS FIRST VIRTUAL SUSTAINABILITY SHOWCASE

Commemorating World Environment Day, the D-8 Secretariat successfully organized its inaugural Virtual Sustainability Showcase, titled "D-8 Voices for a Zero-Waste Future," bringing together experts, innovators and development partners to exchange practical solutions for advancing sustainability across Member States.

The event showcased innovative approaches to circular economy practices, zero-waste initiatives and green technologies while promoting knowledge-sharing among D-8 countries and international partners.



A key element was the launch of the D-8 Circularity Compendium, a new knowledge resource designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices, promote green investment, and strengthen cooperation in support of more sustainable and resource-efficient economies.

The Showcase reflected the Secretariat's growing emphasis on innovation-driven cooperation and demonstrated the D-8's commitment to integrating sustainability into its broader economic cooperation agenda.

D-8 HIGHLIGHTS GREEN INNOVATION AND MEDICAL TOURISM AS NEW DRIVERS OF MSME GROWTH



To commemorate International MSME Day, the D-8 Organization convened a high-level Webinar entitled "Green MSMEs and Medical Tourism: Opportunities for MSME Development," bringing together policymakers, experts, and business support institutions from across Member States. With more than forty participants representing Ministries, SME agencies, chambers of commerce and related institutions, the Webinar provided an important platform for identifying emerging opportunities that can strengthen sustainable enterprise development throughout the D-8 region.

Opening the proceedings, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood reaffirmed that MSMEs remain the backbone of D-8 economies, generating employment, encouraging innovation, and contributing significantly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized that the transition towards greener economies presents unprecedented opportunities for MSMEs to improve competitiveness, access new markets, and integrate into regional and global value chains.



The Secretary-General also highlighted the rapidly growing potential of green entrepreneurship and medical tourism as strategic sectors capable of attracting investment, creating employment, and supporting sustainable economic diversification.

Expert presentations demonstrated practical approaches to sustainable enterprise development. Malaysia shared successful experiences in healthcare travel, while specialists presented innovative applications of circular business models, artificial intelligence, and sustainable procurement practices. Türkiye highlighted its programmes supporting the green transformation of MSMEs, and Azerbaijan introduced the Baku Climate Coalition for SMEs Green Transition, inviting D-8 Member States to participate following COP29. Bangladesh shared national experiences in developing sustainable supply chains.

Discussions identified access to finance, technology, certification, and technical expertise as common challenges facing MSMEs across Member States. Participants agreed that stronger partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and institutional cooperation will be essential to accelerating the transition towards greener, more innovative, and internationally competitive MSME ecosystems.

The Webinar reaffirmed the D-8's commitment to practical cooperation under the D-8 Decennial Roadmap and the work of the D-8 SME Centre in Abuja, while highlighting innovation and sustainability as key pillars of future MSME development.

EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

D-8 EXPANDS GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AT ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM 2026

The D-8 further strengthened its international profile through active participation in the 5th Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF), held under the theme "Mapping Tomorrow, Managing Uncertainties." Led by Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, the D-8 delegation joined Heads of State and Government, Ministers, senior officials and representatives of international organizations at one of the world's leading platforms for dialogue on contemporary global affairs.



Addressing the high-level panel "Investment Across Continents," the Secretary-General highlighted the growing interaction between geopolitics and geoeconomics in shaping international investment flows. He stressed that diplomacy, dialogue, and multilateral cooperation remain indispensable for creating a stable and predictable environment for investment and sustainable development. He also highlighted the D-8's collaboration with UNCTAD in developing the 'Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking,' underscoring the Organization's commitment to providing practical policy solutions for developing economies.

On the margins of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2026 in Antalya, the Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood held extensive bilateral meetings with Ministers and Senior Representatives of Member States and partner organizations, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Iran, Türkiye, ECO, CICA, OIC, UNEP, and DEİK.

Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, sustainability, private-sector engagement, and regional integration.



SECRETARY-GENERAL'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO AZERBAIJAN OPENS A NEW CHAPTER IN D-8 COOPERATION

One of this Quarter's most significant diplomatic engagements was Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood's first official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the D-8's newest Member State.

Held from 17-20 May 2026, the visit reflected the rapidly expanding partnership between Azerbaijan and the D-8 following the country's accession to the Organization.



At the invitation of H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, the Secretary-General participated in the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) and the D-8 High-Level Energy and Urban Dialogue, while holding a series of high-level meetings with senior Azerbaijani leaders.



Addressing the High-Level Dialogue, the Secretary-General emphasized that urban development and energy transition should be pursued as complementary priorities for sustainable growth. He highlighted the D-8 region's abundant renewable energy potential, youthful population, and strategic geography, and proposed stronger cooperation in climate-resilient infrastructure, integrated urban-energy planning, smart technologies, investment, and South-South collaboration.

Another milestone was the continued advancement of three proposed D-8 Centers of Excellence in Baku -- covering Energy and Climate, Transport, and Media -- which are expected to become flagship institutions supporting research, innovation, technical cooperation, and capacity-building across the Organization.

SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLS FOR STRONGER GLOBAL COOPERATION AT ZERO WASTE FORUM 2026

The D-8 further advanced the sustainability agenda through the participation of Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood as Keynote Speaker at the High-Level Ministerial Session on Energy during Zero Waste Forum 2026 in Istanbul, held under the theme "Energy Efficiency and Resource Management for a Sustainable Future."



Organized jointly by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye and the Zero Waste Foundation, the Forum brought together more than 5,000 participants from over 180 countries, including ministers, policymakers, international organizations, academia and the private sector.



In his Address, the Secretary-General commended the Government of Türkiye and First Lady H.E. Mrs. Emine Erdoğan for their leadership in advancing the globally recognized Zero Waste Initiative. Highlighting the D-8's expanding sustainability agenda, he drew attention to recent initiatives including the inaugural Virtual Sustainability Showcase, the High-Level Energy and Urban Dialogue in Baku and the First Meeting of D-8 Energy Ministers.

Looking ahead, he proposed three practical initiatives: establishing a Global South Platform on Energy Efficiency and Resource Management; launching a Circular Economy and Zero-Waste Partnership Initiative; and developing innovative financing mechanisms -- including Green Sukuk and blended finance -- to support sustainable energy and circular economy projects. The Forum reaffirmed the growing role of the D-8 in promoting practical cooperation on sustainability, energy efficiency, and climate resilience.

SECRETARY-GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AT THE 29TH EURASIAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT



The D-8 strengthened its voice on international economic cooperation through participation in the 29th Eurasian Economic Summit in Istanbul under the theme "Global Responsibility." Addressing the inaugural session, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the interconnected nature of today's global challenges -- including armed conflict, climate change, food insecurity, water scarcity, protectionism and disruptions to global supply chains -- and emphasized that these challenges require stronger multilateral cooperation and renewed international solidarity.

The Secretary-General affirmed the enduring relevance of the D-8's founding principles while identifying three strategic priorities: sustainable and inclusive economic growth; accelerated climate action and green transformation; and strengthened innovation, digital transformation and South-South cooperation.



The Secretary-General also highlighted the D-8's evolution into a dynamic Organization representing more than 1.2 billion people with a combined GDP exceeding US\$ 5 trillion, emphasizing its growing contribution to international dialogue and sustainable development.

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN TÜRKİYE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMIT

As digital technologies continue to reshape economies worldwide, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood participated in the Türkiye Artificial Intelligence Summit in Istanbul. The high-level event, inaugurated by H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, brought together government leaders, technology experts, academics and business representatives to discuss emerging developments in artificial intelligence.



President Erdoğan announced the National Artificial Intelligence Literacy Programme together with Türkiye's Artificial Intelligence Action Plan (2026-2030), setting out an ambitious roadmap for strengthening national digital capabilities and innovation. The Secretary-General's participation reflected the D-8's increasing interest in emerging technologies and digital transformation as important drivers of sustainable economic development and future regional competitiveness.

D-8 AND UNCTAD EXPAND STRATEGIC COOPERATION



The D-8 further strengthened its partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) through a high-level meeting between Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and UNCTAD Secretary-General H.E. Rebecca Grynspan, currently contesting election for the UN Secretary-General.

Held on the sidelines of Zero Waste Forum 2026, the meeting reviewed ongoing cooperation and explored new initiatives supporting sustainable economic development across D-8 Member States.

The Secretary-General highlighted the D-8's increasing geo-economic significance and welcomed the successful collaboration with UNCTAD in developing the 'Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking.' He proposed expanding cooperation beyond policy formulation towards practical implementation in trade facilitation, investment promotion, digital transformation, and institutional capacity-building.

It was agreed to work towards preparing a dedicated Plan of Action, establishing a stronger framework for future institutional cooperation between D-8 and UNCTAD.



SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN TÜRKİYE'S PARTICIPATION FINANCE SUMMIT



Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood participated in the high-level Türkiye's Vision for Participation Finance: Sustainable Growth, Digital Transformation and New Investment Models Summit, organized by Anadolu Agency.

The Summit assembled policymakers, financial experts and business leaders to explore emerging trends in participation finance, Islamic banking and innovative investment models. During his media interactions, the Secretary-General highlighted the growing importance of participation finance and its increasing portfolio in several D-8 countries.

The Secretary-General's participation in the Summit reflected the D-8's interest in promoting sustainable finance, digital transformation, and innovative financial instruments that support inclusive economic development across Member States.

D-8 PROMOTES CULTURAL DIPLOMACY DURING TURKISH CUISINE WEEK

Recognizing that cultural engagement complements economic cooperation, Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood participated in the "Bir Sofrada Miras" (Heritage at One Table) programme held in Istanbul as part of Turkish Cuisine Week.

The event, attended by H.E. Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye, highlighted the importance of preserving culinary heritage while promoting intercultural dialogue, sustainable tourism and people-to-people connections. The Secretary-General availed of this opportunity to brief the First Lady about the D-8's measures in support of the Zero Waste Initiative.



D-8 ATTENDS GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON FOOD SECURITY AT THE 7TH IOFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The D-8 continued to strengthen its engagement with the wider Islamic world through the participation of Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood in the Ministerial Session of the 7th General Assembly of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), hosted virtually by the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The General Assembly brought together representatives from more than 40 OIC Member States and over 15 international organizations to discuss emerging priorities for food security, sustainable agriculture and resilience.

The Secretary-General's participation reaffirmed the D-8's commitment to supporting stronger cooperation in food security, agricultural innovation, and sustainable development while reinforcing partnerships with sister organizations across the Islamic world.

HIGH-LEVEL VISITS AND DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH

Throughout the second Quarter, the Secretariat continued to deepen its engagement with Member States and partner institutions by welcoming senior government officials, ambassadors, academic leaders, and representatives of international organizations to D-8 Headquarters in Istanbul.

These high-level interactions provided valuable opportunities to review ongoing cooperation, exchange views on emerging priorities and explore new initiatives supporting the Organization's strategic objectives.

SECRETARY-GENERAL HELD HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL MEETINGS AT THE MARGIN OF WORLD URBAN FORUM IN BAKU

Secretary-General of the D-8, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood held his first official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan upon the invitation of the Hon'ble President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev to participate in the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13) and the D-8 High-Level Energy and Urban Dialogue in Baku.

During the visit, the Secretary-General held substantive discussions with H.E. Hikmat Hajiye, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan; H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy; and Mr. Ahmad Ismayilov, Executive Director of the Media Development Agency of Azerbaijan (MEDIA). Discussions focused on Azerbaijan's growing contribution to the Organization, institutional reforms, energy cooperation, media collaboration, operationalization of the proposed Centers of Excellence, and preparations for the 12th D-8 Summit in Indonesia.



The visit represented a milestone in the D-8's engagement with its newest Member State and underscored the Organization's commitment to strengthening practical cooperation that advances innovation, sustainability and regional prosperity.

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S BILATERAL MEETING DURING OFFICIAL VISIT TO ANKARA

On the margins of the 51st Session of the D-8 Commission Meeting in Ankara, the Secretary-General also held high-level meetings with senior Turkish officials to advance cooperation in entrepreneurship, digital transformation, development assistance, innovation and SME development, reaffirming the Secretariat's commitment to building stronger partnerships that deliver tangible benefits for Member States.



On the sidelines of the Commission Session, the Secretary-General held high-level consultations with H.E. Fuat Oktay, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and former Vice President of the Republic of Türkiye. Discussions focused on regional and global developments, preparations for the 12th D-8 Summit, and opportunities for further strengthening economic cooperation among D-8 Member States by building on existing complementarities and creating new synergies. The Secretary-General expressed appreciation for Türkiye's longstanding support for the Organization and its founding vision.

The Secretary-General also met with Mr. Abdullah Eren, President of TİKA, to explore new avenues of cooperation in development assistance, capacity-building, digital transformation, e-government, youth and women entrepreneurship, agriculture, education, and health. It was agreed to pursue the creation of dedicated platform aimed at fostering collaboration among development agencies of Member States and promoting joint development initiatives across the D-8 region.



In a separate meeting with Mr. Ahmet Serdar İbrahimcioğlu, President of KOSGEB, discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in support of SMEs, entrepreneurship, innovation, digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence, technology development, and start-up ecosystems. The two sides explored opportunities for capacity-building programmes, cooperation among innovation centers and Technopark's, and possible mechanisms to support SME financing and regional value-chain integration.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TÜRKİYE VISITS THE SECRETARIAT

H.E. H. Ali Özel, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, visited the Secretariat to discuss preparations for upcoming high-level meetings, institutional priorities, and opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between the Host Country and the D-8 Secretariat.

The meeting reaffirmed the longstanding partnership between Türkiye and the Organization.



D-8 PARTICIPATES IN BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

Ambassador Mustafa Özcan, Director-I of the D-8 Secretariat, represented the Organization at the Diplomatic Reception hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Ankara to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence and National Day together with the Bengali New Year.



The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials and distinguished guests, reflecting the longstanding friendship between Bangladesh and its international partners while reaffirming the close relationship between Bangladesh and the D-8 Organization.

AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO TÜRKİYE VISITS D-8 HEADQUARTERS



H.E. Ambassador Dr. Yousaf Junaid, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Türkiye, met with the Secretary-General to exchange views on recent developments within the Organization and reaffirm Pakistan's continued support for the D-8's mission and priorities.

D-8 AND SMIIC EXPLORE EXPANDED INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

The Secretary General of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), H.E. İhsan Övüt, paid a courtesy visit to the Secretariat to discuss opportunities for expanding cooperation in standardization, quality infrastructure, technical cooperation, institutional development and capacity-building.

Both sides expressed their commitment to developing future collaborative programmes that contribute to sustainable development and deeper economic cooperation among D-8 Member States.



PAKISTAN HIGHER EDUCATION DELEGATION VISITS THE SECRETARIAT



A delegation from Pakistan visiting Türkiye for the EURIE 2026 Higher Education Summit met with Secretary-General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood to discuss cooperation in higher education, research, innovation and human capital development. The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening academic partnerships and knowledge-sharing among D-8 Member States, including through NPRI.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building upon the achievements of the second Quarter, the D-8 enters the second half of 2026 with renewed momentum and a clear strategic direction. Preparations for the next D-8 Summit continue to move forward, while the Secretariat remains focused on implementing the D-8 Decennial Roadmap (2020–2030), strengthening institutional cooperation, and translating ministerial decisions into tangible outcomes.

The Quarter demonstrated that the D-8 is steadily evolving into a more implementation-oriented, innovation-driven, and globally engaged Organization. Through stronger institutions, expanded international partnerships, and practical cooperation across priority sectors, the Organization is laying the foundations for a more connected, resilient, and prosperous future for its Member States.

As the D-8 approaches a new chapter in its development, the Secretariat remains committed to working closely with Member States and partners to promote peace, sustainable development, inclusive growth and South-South cooperation.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



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