

Dhaka Declaration on D-8 Trade Cooperation
adopted at the 3rd D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting
05 March 2024
Dhaka, Bangladesh

We, the Ministers of Trade/Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Türkiye met in Dhaka on 5 March 2024 for the Third D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting;

Reaffirming our commitments set out in the Summit Declarations held in Istanbul (1997), Dhaka (1999), Cairo (2001), Tehran (2004), Bali (2006), Kuala Lumpur (2008), Abuja (2010), Islamabad (2012), Istanbul (2017), Dhaka (2021) and to the Decennial Road Map (2008-2018) and (2020-2030),

Reiterating the commitments made in the Declaration adopted at the 1st meeting of the D-8 Trade Ministers Council in Abuja (2013) and Declaration adopted at the 2nd meeting of the Trade Ministers Council in Islamabad (2016);

Recalling the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA) and the Multilateral Agreement Among D-8 Member Countries on Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (Customs Agreement), both signed in Bali, Indonesia, on 13 May 2006;

Recognizing a non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system as a catalyst for economic development;

Reiterating the importance of a rules-based trading system as a step towards the effective and beneficial integration of countries into the global economy;

Reaffirming the commitment reflected in the Dhaka Declaration adopted at the 10th Summit of the D-8 held on 21 April 2021 in Dhaka to operationalize the Preferential Trade, the Visa, and the Customs Agreements as soon as possible in order to promote and ensure substantial cooperation among the Member States in this vital sectoral track of cooperation;

Recalling the commitment stated in the D-8 Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030 to take necessary steps to promote intra-trade of D-8 states and achieve the target of at least 10% of their total trade volume by the end of 2030;

Recalling also that the Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030 tasks the D-8 Trade Ministers Council to lead discussions on the benefits of transforming the PTA into the D-8 FTA while Article 30(3) of the D-8 PTA stipulates its review for further liberalization.

Recognizing the role of private-sector participation in facilitating and ensuring D-8 cooperation through enhanced trade and commercial activities; accordingly, **affirming** the importance of deepening the sectoral cooperation for deeper private sector involvement in all activities;

Reiterating the importance of efficient networking between and among D-8 Members, trade and investment promotion agencies, and private sectors for sharing best practices and promoting intra-D-8 trade;

Recognizing the need for inclusive trade for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and **affirming** the commitment to creating a more inclusive trading system that also ensures the increased participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), underrepresented sectors, youth and women entrepreneurs, and small-scale start-ups of the Member States in the international trading system;

do hereby,

1. Welcome the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement Among D-8 Member States (D-8 PTA) by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Türkiye, and call upon the other Contracting Members to commence implementation of the D-8 PTA at their earliest convenience.
2. Invite the remaining Contracting Members to expedite the gazette notification of the implementation of the D-8 PTA at the national level at their earliest convenience.
3. Adopt the outcomes of the Special Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA held in Istanbul on 30-31 May 2016, the 5th Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA held in Ankara on 24 September 2018, the 6th Meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA held virtually on 26 January 2021, the 7th Supervisory Committee Meeting held on 04 March 2024, the 1st Customs Officials Meeting held on 23 October 2018, 2nd Customs Officials Meeting held virtually on 23 March 2021 and the 3rd Customs Meeting held virtually on 24 May 2022.
4. Adopt the ‘**Protocol on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA**’ and invite Contracting Members for its immediate ratification and subsequent implementation.
5. Adopt the ‘**D-8 Trade Facilitation Strategy**’ and invite Member States for its subsequent implementation.
6. Agree to enhance efforts to increase the intra-trade of D-8 Member States to at least 10 percent of the D-8 global trade, as reflected in the Decennial Roadmap 2020-2030.
7. Encourage the Member States to review the existing Offer Lists and expand them to an assertive level so that private sectors find more incentives in trading.

8. Task the D-8 Secretariat to commission a study to explore the ways and means for the expansion of the PTA and submit it to the next Supervisory Committee Meeting.
9. Underline the importance of close cooperation and mutual assistance among customs administrations and other relevant authorities of the member states for more effective trade facilitation, as enshrined in the Customs Agreement.
10. Agree to form a technical working group to conduct a scoping exercise on the possibilities of an agreement on identifying and removing technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and import licensing, including criteria to identify measures that are classified as non-tariff barriers to trade.
11. Agree to establish a D-8 database of non-tariff barriers and a work program for the removal of the para-tariffs and non-tariff barriers in conformity with national commitments in other relevant international and regional institutions.
12. Task the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA to initiate a study for exploring the potential sectors for trade in services in the next phase of cooperation.
13. Task the D-8 Secretariat to work on country specific need assessment including financing and technical assistance and submit a report to the next session of the Supervisory Committee.
14. Commend the hard work of the Supervisory Committee in executing their mandate to ensure the implementation of the D-8 PTA, including the finalization of (i) Protocol on the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the D-8 PTA, (ii) Trade Facilitation Strategy and welcome the Report of its 7th Session, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4 March 2024.
15. Call upon the Supervisory Committee to continue its commendable work in promoting the effective implementation of the D-8 PTA and present its report to the D-8 Trade Ministers Council on a regular basis.
16. Acknowledge the commendable work done by the D-8 Secretariat and appreciate its efforts to enhance collaboration among the Member States.
17. Convey sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ahasanul Islam Titu, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Commerce, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for his excellent chairing of the meeting.
18. Congratulate the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the excellent preparation and the successful hosting of the 3rd D-8 Trade Ministers Council Meeting and express utmost gratitude for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegations.

Dhaka, 05 March 2024