

## GROUP OF FIFTEEN



## THE SUMMIT LEVEL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

FACT SHEET

### THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN

A summit level group of developing countries spanning the globe, the G-15 provides a platform for articulation of common perceptions on the world situation and promotion of economic development through South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue. Based on the common goal of enhanced growth and prosperity, the G-15 was established by 15 developing countries during the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit in September 1989. It presently has 18 members, comprising of an important cross-section of countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

### MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE G-15

The G-15 member countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Zimbabwe (Africa); India, Indonesia, Iran Malaysia, Sri Lanka (Asia); Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela (Latin America & Caribbean).

### WHAT DO G-15 COUNTRIES HAVE IN COMMON?

G-15 countries together are responsible for 28% of global *crude oil* output with Iran, Mexico, Venezuela, Nigeria and Algeria among the world's leading producers of oil and natural gas. Some member countries are abundantly endowed with extractive resources such as *copper* (Chile, Peru, Indonesia); *zinc* (Peru) and *tin* (Indonesia, Peru, Brazil). Many are the world's leading producers of commodities like *sugar* (Brazil, India); *tea* (India, Kenya, Sri Lanka); *coffee* (Brazil, Indonesia); *cocoa* (Indonesia, Nigeria, Brazil); *rubber* (Indonesia, Malaysia); *cassava* (Nigeria, Brazil, Indonesia) and *oil-seeds* (Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia). Some have relatively developed economies with large diversified industrial bases (Brazil, India, Mexico), developed infrastructure (Chile, Malaysia) and advanced technological capabilities in critical areas like *pharmaceuticals* (Argentina, Brazil, India) and *information technology* (Malaysia, India, Argentina). In 2006, G-15 countries accounted for one-third of the world's population, and 34% of total exports and 33% of total imports of goods and services by developing countries. In terms of GDP size, 11 member countries counted among the world's 50 biggest economies, with four (India, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia) ranking among the biggest 15. Six G-15 countries (Brazil, Mexico, Chile, India, Malaysia, Argentina) ranked among the top 30 destinations for foreign direct investment, and three (Malaysia, Chile, India) figured among the first 30 countries on the global competitiveness index.

### AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES OF THE G-15

The agenda of the G-15 is mainly focused on development issues and South-South economic cooperation, while not excluding the political dimensions of development issues.

Some of the objectives of the G-15 are:

- To harness the considerable potential for greater and mutually beneficial cooperation among developing countries.
- To conduct a regular review of the impact of the world situation and of the state of international economic relations on developing countries.
- To serve as a forum for regular consultations among developing countries with a view to coordinating policies and actions.
- To identify and implement new and concrete schemes for South-South cooperation and mobilize wider support for them.
- To pursue a more positive and productive North-South dialogue and to find new ways of dealing with problems in a cooperative, constructive and mutually supportive manner.

### STRUCTURE

The highest decision making body of the G-15 is the Summit Meeting of its Heads of State and Government (HOS/G), with the venue being rotated among the three developing regions of the South (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean). Foreign Ministers of the G-15 countries usually meet at least once every year to prepare for the next Summit and to coordinate the work of the Group. Ambassadors, designated as the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the HOS/G, meet regularly in Geneva to supervise the day-to-day work of the G-15. A Troika comprised of the hosts of the current, previous and next Summits, guides the PRs in their work. A Technical Support Facility based in Geneva provides secretarial support for the activities and programmes of the G-15.

### SOURCE OF FUNDING

The activities of the group are primarily financed through annual contributions by G-15 member countries. Additionally, a number of projects are sponsored and funded by individual member countries.

### SUMMIT MEETINGS

Kuala Lumpur 1990, Caracas 1991, Dakar 1992, New Delhi 1994, Buenos Aires 1995, Harare 1996, Kuala Lumpur 1997, Cairo 1998, Montego Bay (Jamaica) 1999, Cairo 2000, Jakarta 2001, Caracas 2004, Havana 2006.

## COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

In pursuance of the objective of South-South technical cooperation, member countries of the G-15 have established a wide range of development and technical projects. Participation in G-15 projects is also open to interested developing countries other than G-15 members. The following is the list of current G-15 collaborative projects:

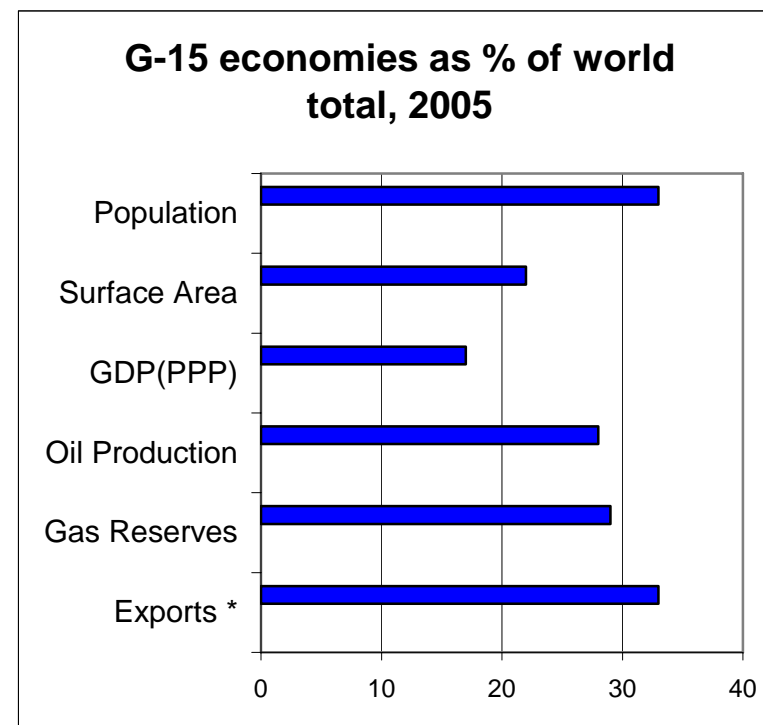
1. Cooperation at Institutional and Enterprise level for G-15 Small and Medium-size Enterprises (Egypt).
2. Cooperation among Developing Countries in the Field of Design, Execution and Management of Petroleum, Gas and Petrochemical Projects (Egypt).
3. Cooperation among G-15 Stock Market Exchanges (Egypt).
4. Trade Point Network for the member countries of the G-15 (Egypt).
5. Cooperation between the G-15 Countries in International Fairs and Exhibitions (Egypt).
6. G-15 ICT On-line Resource Centre (Egypt).
7. Computer Training Centre in New Delhi (India).
8. Gene Banks for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Developing Countries (India).
9. Small-scale Industries Cooperation with Senegal, Zimbabwe and Nigeria (India).
10. Solar Energy Applications (India).
11. Vocational Training Centre/Entrepreneur and Technical Development Centre (CEDT) in Senegal (India).
12. Cooperation among G-15 Countries in Banking and Trade Finance (Indonesia).
13. International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (Jamaica).
14. Toxicology Laboratory for the Natural Products Institute (Jamaica).
15. Financial Mechanism to Enhance Trade Among Developing Countries (Malaysia).
16. Centres of Educational Excellence (Malaysia).
17. G-15 Electronic Trade Network On-line (ETNO) (Malaysia and Egypt).
18. Collaboration on the Utilization and Development of Non-Metallic Mineral Raw Materials (Nigeria).
19. Transfer of Technology and Development (Senegal).
20. Business and Investment Forum (BIF) (Zimbabwe).
21. G-15 Human Resource Training Programme.

## PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services (FCCIS) is the main private sector forum of G-15 member countries. Its objective is the development of closer ties among G-15 business chambers to coordinate and maximize efforts at promoting business, economic development and joint investment in G-15 member countries.

With a view to further promoting practical cooperation and business transactions between G-15 business concerns, it has been an established practice to organize G-15 Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, during the Summits of Heads of State and Government. Representatives of each member country's private sector are given a stall where they exhibit their products and conclude deals, in addition to the various bilateral and plurilateral match-making meetings arranged on the flanks.

## WHY DOES THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN MATTER?



\* % of total developing country exports

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