



Joint Communiqué issued at

The 15th Annual General Body meeting convened in New Delhi, 20 October 2008

The G-15 Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services (FCCIS) held its 15th Annual General Body meeting on 20 October 2008, in New Delhi, under the auspices of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to discuss, "**World Commodity Prices Development and the Need to Enhance cooperation in Trade and Investment within the G-15 Countries**".

1- The main elements discussed:

A - Economic environment and its impact on the developing countries:

- (1) Creating a competition - based knowledge economy.
- (2) Improving the business atmosphere and the investment environment.
- (3) Making use of all cooperation opportunities whether at the regional or international level.
- (4) The speakers were H. E. Ambassador V. B. Soni, Chairman Overseas Infrastructure Alliance, India PVT Ltd. & member, CII Africa Committee (The presentation is attached) and Ms. Bidisha Ganguly, consultant, CIII.

B - World food crisis and its impact on the developing countries:

- (1) The Areas related to food supply and the challenges facing developing countries in making food available for over increasing populations in these countries. This problem is related to competition between food and energy particularly with the intensive program of bio-fuel production using food grains and edible oil.
- (2) The decrease of food prices index in the last year seems temporary and the predictions of the O.E.C.D indicate that the food prices will average high in the coming decade.
- (3) There is urgent need for enhancing food production in G-15 countries to secure food supply.
- (4) The G-15 countries must improve Bilateral Trade and develop alternative sources of energy for future generations.

- (5) The G-15 countries have to pay attention to put R & D to work through providing the needed support to this important sector. This will help to overcome the severe food crisis, which seems to continue with the shortage of food supply.
- (6) The speaker was: Prof. Dr. Hassan Moawad AbdeIaI, Former President, Mubarak City for Science & Technology.

C - Prospects for enhancing cooperation in trade and investment amongst G-15 member countries".

- (1) Importance of e-commerce for SMEs.
- (2) The main steps for digital transformation within the business communities.
- (3) The main elements of the G-15 FCCIS e-market place.
- (4) The speaker was: Eng. Aly Abdellah, Senior e-business consultant, G-15 FCCIS.

Recommendations

1 - In the field of cooperation within the G-15 member countries:

- A - Creating a competition - based knowledge economy.
- B - Improving business atmosphere and investment environment.
- C - Making use of all cooperation opportunities whether at the regional or international level.

2 - In the field of fast and necessary measures to face the world food crisis:

- A - Building material capacities in R & D.
- B - Creating better environment for operationalizing R & D.
- C - Proper use of natural resources.
- D - Initiating developmental mega projects among developing countries.
- E - Holding incentive negotiations to attract foreign direct investment for food and agricultural mega projects in the less developed countries suffering from poverty and hunger.
- F - Trying all possible means (political, institutional, humanitarian and economic) to stop the expansion of bio-fuel production by rich developed countries at the expense of food for people in the less developed countries.

3 - In the field of G-15 FCCIS e-commerce platform:

Activating the G-15 FCCIS e-commerce platform is needed within next year through:

- A - Building a network of e-trade service centers in cooperation with chambers of commerce and Business organizations in different communities concerned.
- B - Establishing a group of vertical markets in each member country through business partnership with business and community leaders.

4 - Miscellaneous:

- A - The Indian side organized businessmen meetings in the field of handicrafts, household linens, readymade clothes and leather, during the period from 21-23 October 2008 which contributed to cooperation and exchange of experiences, especially for members of the Egyptian social fund for development.
- B - Confederation of Indian industry has called for a wider e-commerce marketplace net to be presented at the meeting of Indian business organizations during the month of March, it also demanded that the research carried out by Prof. Dr. Hassan Moawad Abdelal to be presented as scheduled.
- C - The G-15 FCCIS secretariat General was very worried about the negative response of the member chambers to attend the meeting, due to the difficulties in financing their airfares, accommodation and other expenses.
- D - The meeting was attended by Mr. Audu Kadiri, Head of the G-15 Technical Support Facility in Geneva, who announced that the Personal Representatives of Heads of State of the Group, have agreed that the future meetings of the G-15 FCCIS will be concurrent with the summit meetings.
- E - The letter of Iran chamber of commerce, industries and Mines to host the next meeting of the G-15 FCCIS in 2009, was presented at the conclusion of the meeting. This initiative was highly appreciated.
