



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15 Joint Statement to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), Istanbul, Turkey, 9 - 13 May 2011

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries for South-South and North-South consultation and cooperation, comprising 17 member states*. With the promotion of international engagement to foster development through cooperation in all its facets as one of its founding objectives, the Group has consistently recognized the vulnerability of the Least Developed Countries and reaffirmed their special needs in addressing the obstacles and constraints to their sustainable development. In light of this commitment, the 11th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen, held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2001, welcomed the adoption of the Brussels Plan of Action at the 3rd UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in May 2001, the implementation of which is being reviewed in this Conference with a view to mapping out a new comprehensive and action-oriented development framework for the LDCs. The Group had then called on the international community, particularly the developed countries and relevant international institutions, to fulfill their commitments in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

2. At its last Summit held in May 2010, in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Group undertook a critical appraisal of the global economic governance including the recent financial and economic crisis and other issues of mutual concern. The Group urged donor countries to fulfill all long-standing ODA commitments, including those made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010. Furthermore, the Summit called for the examination of creative and innovative financing for development, both short-term and long-term, in particular for the LDCs, including debt swap. The target of 0.15 per cent of ODA to the Least Developed Countries should be reached and debt relief or emergency aid should not be provided at the expense of ODA.

3. As the international community meets at this critical juncture to review the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for the LDCs, the G-15 expresses deep concern on the reality that growth in many developing countries, particularly the LDCs, continues to fall below the level required, for a significant progress towards the attainment of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this regard, we note in particular, the urgent need for the establishment of a more concrete and workable road map for achieving the MDGs by providing greater and better-targeted assistance to these countries, in order to enable them attain early graduation from the LDC status. To this end, the development of LDCs' productive capacities should be fostered to ensure the achievement and sustainability of their social and economic goals.

4. While emphasizing the need for a timely and successful conclusion of the stalled WTO Doha Round negotiations, the G-15 reiterates the imperative to achieve a balanced outcome in all areas of negotiations, aimed at addressing the development concerns of developing countries, in particular the LDCs. In addition, we recognize the need to enhance the efficacy of Aid for Trade for improving trade competitiveness and capacity and better integration of developing countries, including the LDCs, into the international trading system. We recall in this regard, the pledges of developed countries, especially those donor countries, and emphasize the need for additional funds, recipient country ownership, predictability and their fulfillment in a timely manner. The Group also reiterates the need for expediting the accession of developing countries and in particular, the LDCs to the WTO.

5. Recent developments in the international agriculture markets have witnessed soaring prices for important food products. Several international organizations warn against another International Food Crisis with a more significant impact on developing countries, especially Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), than those witnessed in the 2008 international food crisis. To that end, the G-15 highlights the importance of ensuring food security in order to sustain the ability of LDCs to pursue agricultural policies that are supportive of their development goals, poverty reduction strategies, food security and livelihood concerns.

6. The Group of Fifteen recognizes the fact that the economic and social development of LDCs present a major challenge for these countries. We undertake to actively participate in the conference and support efforts with developed countries, donors and all relevant stakeholders, that will lead to the adoption of a new and deliverable programme of enhanced global partnership to accelerate sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Least Developed Countries as they march through the 21st Century. To this end, the strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation including the involvement of donor countries and/or agencies is of great importance.

* Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe