



GROUP OF FIFTEEN

The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST MEETING
OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**
Geneva, 30 March 2011

SUMMARY RECORDS

1. The 101st Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on 30 March 2011 in Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Kshenuka Senewiratne, the Personal Representative of the President of Sri Lanka.

2. The Chairperson welcomed the PRs to the meeting convened to enable the Group continue its consultations on the broad range of issues broached at the previous meeting. She welcomed in particular Ambassador Fodé Seck, the new Personal Representative of the President of Senegal to the G-15, and solicited his support and cooperation in the meetings of the Group. The list of participants is attached.

Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

3. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document **G-15/11/PR101/1**.

Item 2 – Further briefing on the status of the two Working Groups

4. The Chairperson recalled that she had recently informed PRs about the acceptance by Indonesia and Mexico to head the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms and the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation, respectively, and invited those countries' representatives to make their preliminary observations.

5. The delegate of Indonesia thanked the Chairperson for entrusting the responsibility of the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms to her country. She stated that it was an honour and privilege to accord Indonesia with this important responsibility and assured the meeting that she would endeavour to facilitate appropriate recommendations that would enhance the efficiency of the Group's institutions, mechanisms and procedures. The delegate of Mexico stated that it was equally an honour

for her country to undertake the responsibility of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation. She stated that her delegation was already looking at the past documents and would shortly convene a meeting of the Working Group and also circulate its terms of reference for the information of member countries.

Item 3 – Further consideration of the Consultation and Coordination process on key international issues of interest to member countries

6. The Chairperson recalled that at their last meeting, PRs considered the initial steps in the institutionalization of the process of regular consultation and coordination on key international issues and the possible adoption of a common position on the same. She invited the meeting to note that the broad consensus expressed at the last meeting was that a new structure should not be established for this effort, and since the Group now has regular meetings of the PRs where the matter could be discussed. In order to set the process in motion, she invited PRs to suggest the possible issues or topics on which to forge a common position, taking into account the following considerations:

- The need to take into account the major conferences to be held in Geneva in the course of the year.
- Noting the reality that each international forum or conference has its own peculiar format and processes, the need to determine at what stage the G-15 could make its intervention on the basis of a common position already agreed upon. In this regard, PRs could choose either to mandate their experts participating in the preparatory processes of such meetings to evolve a common G-15 position to be presented or make such joint interventions at the high-point of the conference proper, on the basis of a common position worked out by the experts. This was important, she noted, in order to avoid the difficulties experienced recently in the course of the Group's attempts at agreeing on and presenting a joint position to the Cancun Climate Conference and the last G-20 Summit.

7. Following were the outcomes of the discussion:

- 1) *The Group should begin consultations with the aim of exploring the possibility of a common G-15 position in important international conferences of sufficient relevance and interest to the members of the Group to be held both in Geneva and elsewhere;*
- 2) *Among such conferences scheduled for this year was the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) that will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9-13 May 2011; the third session of the Trade and Development Commission of the UNCTAD to be held in Geneva on 6-10 June 2011; the High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases during the 65th UN General Assembly session to be held on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York; 17th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC to be held in Durban, South Africa 28 November to 9 December 2011; and the Sixth G-20 Summit to be held in Cannes, France in November 2011. The Working Group on Sectoral*

Cooperation should also keep in mind, for consideration and inclusion in its Programme of Work, the meetings mentioned above.

- 3) *The G-15 Experts should hold discussions on a common position for the LDC-IV Conference to be held in May 2011. The TSF should prepare an initial draft statement on the LDC-IV Conference for the consideration of G-15 Experts, based on common language agreed upon in previous G-15 Summits as well as in other fora such as NAM and the G-77. The final draft will be submitted to the PRs for approval.*

Item 4 - Further consideration of the modality for institutionalizing dialogue with the G-20

8. The Chairperson recalled that in their last meeting, PRs had considered the need to initiate a structured interaction with the G-20. In this regard, Malaysia had kindly agreed to brief the current meeting on the approach being adopted by the ASEAN Group in its evolving interaction with the G-20. The Chairperson thereupon invited the delegate of Malaysia to make a statement.

9. According to the delegate of Malaysia, based on information from capital, ASEAN first began engaging with the G-20 in 2009 when the host, Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the UK, sent an invitation to the Chair of ASEAN as well as its Secretary-General. The invitation was extended against the background of the global financial crisis of 2009 and the fact that G-20 members wished to learn from the experience of ASEAN countries in tackling this issue as they had faced it in 1997. She remarked further that in 2010, ASEAN was again invited to the G-20 Summits in Toronto and Seoul. However, these invitations were sent on an ad hoc basis and ASEAN was also informed that they were not permanent invitees to the G-20 meetings. There was therefore uncertainty regarding whether anyone from ASEAN would be invited to the next G-20 Summit in France later this year.

10. The Chairperson remarked that it was clear from the statement of Malaysia that participation in the G-20 meetings was based on invitation and mutual benefit. She therefore observed that at this point in time, it was difficult to see how the G-15 could be invited. It was best, she added, therefore, to follow the previous practice of sending a written communication from the G-15 to the G-20. In this context, she invited PRs of the G-15 member countries with concurrent membership of the G-20 to inform the meeting on the status of the response to the letter addressed to the last G-20 Summit in Seoul, Republic of Korea by the Chairman of the G-15.

11. Some PRs observed that the letter from the G-15 Chairman had been sent to the G-20 on the eve of the latter Summit. In future any such communication ought to be sent at least a month in advance. It was also remarked that the courtesy of a response depended on the concerned host country. Some PRs were of the view that before persisting with a dialogue with the G-20, the Group should try to enhance its own cohesiveness and relevance with a view to establishing its international credibility.

12. The delegate of Brazil stated that his country was willing to make an effort to facilitate the manner in which the G-15 could proceed with its desire to initiate a dialogue with the G-20. To this end, he announced that Brazil was willing to provide an expert from capital to brief the Group. The Meeting was informed that France had recently sent an expert to brief UNCTAD members on the next G-20 Summit. As a follow up, this expert could be invited to brief G-15 members too.

13. The Chairperson remarked that the decision to initiate a dialogue with the G-20 was a recommendation of the High Level Task Force, which had been endorsed by G-15 Foreign Ministers. She recalled that the Task Force had also recommended establishing an open-ended Committee of PRs, comprising G-15 members with concurrent membership of the G-20 to explore alternatives for enhanced interaction between the two Groups. She observed that the suggestion from Brazil was a useful one and noted that all delegations present had welcomed it.

In light of the foregoing considerations, it was agreed that the Group should avail itself of the offer made by Brazil. Against the background of the relevant recommendation of the HLTF on the lead role to be played by G-15 members that have concurrent membership of the G-20, Brazil was urged to coordinate its effort with representatives of these member countries to enable them participate in the envisaged briefing session of the PRs in Geneva. The question of whether or not to have a dialogue with the G-20 could be considered thereafter. In case it was agreed there was no use in persisting with it, the matter could be put before the Foreign Ministers for a reversal of the original decision.

Item 5 - Financial matters of the Group:

(a) Comments on the proposed 2011 Budget

14. The Chairperson also recalled that in the course of the previous meeting, when PRs had considered and endorsed the Draft Budget for 2011, it had been agreed that the latter would be considered approved by the Foreign Ministers in the absence of any objection received before the convening of the present meeting. She invited the Meeting to note that, as there had been no objection communicated by any member country, the Draft Budget for 2011 is deemed approved by the Foreign Ministers.

(b) Consideration of the Financial Statement of the Group for the year 2010

15. The Chairperson then presented the Financial Report for the year 2010, prepared by the official auditors of the Group, indicating the financial position of the Group as at 31st December 2010 as well as the approved and actual expenditures of the Group for the year under review. She noted in this regard that the Financial Statement was prepared and released within the period recommended by the High Level Task Force. She further noted that, of the approved 2010 budget of CHF 1,236,458, the sum of CHF 187,302 was unspent and therefore represents savings on the approved budget. She then invited the meeting to note that, in the report, the auditors conclude that the books of account and

financial statements for the year 2010 are in order. In light of this consideration, she invited the meeting to formally take note of the Financial Report for the year 2010, prepared by the official auditors of the Group before its transmission to the 34th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration.

16. Some delegations sought clarification that the Financial Statement showed that the value of total current assets had fallen between 2009 and 2010. It was also stressed that attempt should be made to have the current expenditure not exceeding current income. It was further pointed out that the Balance Sheet showed there was a net loss resulting from an excess of expenditure over income. It was explained by the Group's Auditor as well as by the Head of the TSF that some of the assets of the Group were denominated in US dollars and the Euro and the recent fluctuation in these currencies meant that the value of the Group's assets had decreased. Furthermore, accumulated savings, together with annual contributions and income from investments are the authorized sources for financing G-15 budgets. The Balance Sheet reflected the financial position of the Group as at 31st December 2010. Thus, contributions from member countries that had not been paid till then contributed to this net loss, in addition to the prevailing exchange rate of the currencies. It was stated that since a sum of CHF 187,302 had been saved from the approved budget for 2010 meant that there had been no expenditure in excess of budgetary approval.

17. The delegation of Indonesia requested the TSF to provide a written explanation/study to explain the trends in the value of the assets of the Group as well an explanation on the excess of expenditure over income for the purposes of the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms.

In light of the foregoing considerations, it was agreed that the TSF should prepare a study on the trend of the value of the Group's assets, including an explanation on the excess of expenditure over current income and the sustainability of the Group's annual budgets.

(c) Consideration of the Budget Variance Report for the 4th Quarter of 2010

18. The Chairperson invited the meeting to note the Budget Variance Report for the 4th Quarter of 2010 prepared by the official auditors of the Group, indicating the difference between the Approved 2010 Budget and the Actual Expenditures incurred for the period. She invited the Meeting to note that the facts of the 4th Quarter Variance Report were already reflected in the Financial Statement for 2010. As there was no further comment, she invited the meeting to note the Report.

Item 6 - Any Other Business

19. The Personal Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Meeting that Iran's Ministry of Energy has decided to hold a meeting of the G-15 Working Group on Water Resources Management from 19 to 21 July 2011 in Tehran in which the following topics would be discussed:

- 1) Demand Management and Agricultural Water Productivity Promotion;
- 2) Challenges of urban water management;
- 3) Climate change and impacts on water resources;
- 4) Strengthening non-governmental organizations in agricultural water resource management.

20. The PR of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that, in addition to the exchange of views on the above-mentioned topics for a period of two days, a one-day field visit to some pertinent projects has been scheduled. The active participation of the relevant senior officials, in particular Deputy Ministers of the G-15 member countries, is encouraged. Member countries are requested, through the TSF, to provide the Mission of Iran in Geneva the coordinates of their respective Ministers in charge of Water Resources, namely, full name, exact title, mailing address, telephone/fax numbers and email address to enable the Iranian authorities to send out invitations accordingly.

The Chairperson requested the delegate of Mexico to reflect this Iranian initiative in the work programme of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation, which she is overseeing.

The Chairperson also directed the TSF to include with the Summary Records the attendance list of the Meetings of the Personal Representatives, hoping that this would encourage better participation in future meetings by the PRs.

21. On this note the meeting was brought to a close.
