



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15/02/PR73/2

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SEVENTY-THIRD MEETING
OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN
Geneva, 4 March 2002

SUMMARY RECORDS

1. The 73rd Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on Monday, 4 March 2002 in Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Werner Corrales Leal, the Personal Representative of the President of Venezuela.

2. The Personal Representative of the President of Egypt to the G-15, H. E. Ambassador Mounir Zahran availed himself of the opportunity to inform the PRs that this meeting would be his last, as Her Excellency, Madam Naéla Gabr, the new Egyptian Permanent Representative to the UNOG and other international organizations in Geneva, has been appointed to succeed him as PR of Egypt. He expressed his gratitude to the PRs for their cooperation and friendship in the course of his assignment and wished that the G-15 would attain greater heights. In response, the Chairman and the PRs expressed their admiration of the exemplary commitment to, and invaluable contributions of Ambassador Zahran to the cause of the G-15. He was warmly referred to as the “institutional memory of the Group” who will be missed by all. The PRs wished him the best as he took leave of them. Similar sentiments were addressed to the Permanent Representative of India who also informed the PRs of her imminent departure on the conclusion of her tour of duty in Geneva. She expressed her appreciation to the PRs for the cooperation and support she enjoyed in the course of her assignment in Geneva. In response, her personal contribution and that of her country, India, to the efforts of the G-15 were acknowledged by the PRs. They wished her the best of luck and success in her future endeavours.

Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

3. Before presenting the Provisional Agenda contained in Document **G-15/02/PR73/1** for adoption by the Personal Representatives, the Chairman introduced an oral amendment, relating to the postponement of the consideration of Agenda item 4 - Administrative and Financial matters: Budget Variance Report for the 4th Quarter of 2001. He informed the PRs that the TSF had informed him that the Report could not be presented as scheduled, owing to the fact that the official Auditors of the Group were yet to provide clarifications on some items of the 4th Quarter Variance Report. He therefore informed the PRs that the Report

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would be considered at the next meeting. The PR of Egypt also informed that, under Agenda item 5 – Other Business, he would raise the issue of the Directory of National Focal Points for G-15 Projects and procedural matters on the Summary Records of PRs' Meetings. The meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda as orally amended.

Item 2 - Briefings on the outcome of recent G-15 Experts Meetings

(a) G-15 Experts Meeting on the Reform of the International Financial Architecture, 5 February 2002, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

(b) First Meeting of the G-15 Task Force on ICT, 18-20 February 2002, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

4. The Personal Representative of Malaysia briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the above-mentioned Experts Meetings held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She informed the meeting that after due consultations among the relevant experts, the G-15 Experts Meeting on the Reform of the International Financial Architecture (IFA), was eventually held on 26-27 February 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It was reported that the meeting was well attended and successful, with a total of 17 member countries represented by experts from the capitals, with the exception of only Argentina and Jamaica. The issues considered included the reform of the international financial architecture, greater transparency in banks' lending transactions, capital flows including the highly-leveraged varieties, and reform of financial institutions. The experts adopted a set of far-reaching recommendations on IFA reforms, the draft of which has been circulated to them for verification and endorsement before formal circulation to member countries.

5. The PR of Malaysia also reported that the First Meeting of the G-15 Task Force on ICT was held on 18-20 February 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A total of 14 member countries participated in the meeting, with mixed representations from the capitals and Embassies of G-15 member countries in Malaysia. The only countries absent were Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru and Senegal. It was reported that the meeting was very successful, with delegates from some member countries making presentations on ICT initiatives and issues in their respective countries. Additional presentations were made by the SITTEDEC, SIBEXLINK, and the Chairman of the Meeting of G-15 Experts Meeting on Science and Technology: Massive Use of ICT as a Development Strategy, held on 6-7 December 2001 in Caracas, Venezuela. Overall, the presentations indicated some common trends among member countries in the context of ICT development. Among the conclusions reached was the agreement to collate information on some of the important indicators of ICT development in member countries with a view to identifying key areas of cooperation. Malaysia agreed to develop a format for this purpose. The high point of the meeting was the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Framework Understanding for Cooperation in ICT among G-15 Member Countries which was forwarded to the PRs for consideration. The PR of Malaysia informed that the 2nd Meeting of the G-15 ICT Task Force will be held in July 2002, back-to-back with the XII Summit in Caracas, Venezuela. The Report of the First Meeting of the G-15 Task Force on ICT, together with the Kuala Lumpur Framework Understanding for Cooperation in ICT among G-15 Member Countries, was circulated at the 73rd PRs Meeting.

(c) First G-15 Experts Meeting on Energy and Development, 25-26 February 2002, Caracas, Venezuela.

6. In his briefing on the outcome of the First G-15 Experts Meeting on Energy and Development held on 25-26 February 2002 in Caracas, Venezuela, the Chairman informed PRs that representatives of 13 member countries and 3 international/regional organizations participated in the meeting. Several presentations were made by experts on the crucial role of energy in the attainment of development objectives. Areas addressed in this regard included financing for energy development, energy efficiency, regulatory framework, the roles of the public and private sectors, diversification of energy sources, energy security, environmental protection, energy market stabilization, technology transfer and cooperation, as well as energy services negotiations in the WTO among others.

7. The Chairman reported that the experts identified important areas for regional and international cooperation and recommended that the G-15 should utilize existing mechanisms to transform ideas into action. To this end, the need was recognized for member countries to strengthen their collaborative links with multilateral institutions dealing with energy, in order to make use of already available information sources to attain faster progress on energy development. From the experiences of Norway and Venezuela on the development of SMEs in the energy sector, the experts recognized valuable opportunities for developing countries to benefit from disciplines and specific commitments being negotiated in the WTO in relation to energy services. Venezuela undertook to prepare a special report in this regard. In conclusion, the experts recommended the establishment of a Working Group to evaluate a mechanism for exchange of information and ways to improve trade among G-15 member countries. The conclusions of the meeting will be used as one of the bases for further elaboration on the subject in the preparations for the 2nd Experts Meeting to be held on 21-23 April 2002.

8. In their various interventions on the briefings on the three experts meetings held, PRs made the following comments:

- That the list of participants of the Experts Meeting on Energy and Development should be made available;
- That comments and amendments submitted by the experts of some member countries on the report of the Experts Meeting on Energy and Development should be adequately reflected;
- That the outcomes of the three experts meetings have direct relevance to the Joint Communiqué and Declaration to be issued by the XII Summit;
- While some PRs were of the view that the results of these experts meetings should be transmitted to relevant international organizations and developing countries' groupings such as the G-77 and G-24, it was however observed by others that the status of the reports of these experts meetings have to be determined first;
- It was reiterated that results of experts meetings should normally be forwarded to PRs for consideration, and thereafter, reflected in their report to the Foreign Ministers.

9. In her response to one of the comments made, the PR of Malaysia referred to paragraph 8 of the Kuala Lumpur Framework Understanding for Cooperation in ICT, in which the experts decided that the document will be forwarded to the PRs for consideration. In his own response to some of the comments made, the Chairman undertook to clarify with Caracas if the Report of the Experts Meeting on Energy and Development in circulation had already incorporated the comments and amendments made by some experts in Caracas. On the status of the Report, he referred to paragraph 1 of the Report which stated that the

conclusions and recommendations of the experts would serve as one of the bases for further elaboration on the subject at the 2nd Experts Meeting on Energy and Development. He remarked that the conclusions of the latter meeting will be transmitted to the Meeting of the Ministers of Energy for consideration.

Item 3 - Substantive preparations for the XII Summit

- **Briefing on arrangements for the XII Summit and its preceding meetings**

10. In his briefing on the current status of arrangements for the XII Summit and its preceding meetings, the Chairman recalled that the date for the XII Summit was earlier fixed for 15-16 July 2002. On learning that the date for the Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which was decided later, coincided with that of the G-15 Summit, Venezuelan Permanent Representative in New York consulted his Jordanian counterpart with a view to reconciling the dates, but no response was received. In order to avoid the clash of dates, the Chairman informed the PRs that Venezuela had decided to shift the XII Summit to 13-14 July 2002. He therefore caused to be circulated, the new schedule of the meetings of the XII Summit, juxtaposed with those of the impending NAM Summit, as follows:

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE G-15 XII SUMMIT AND THAT OF THE NAM SUMMIT

Date	G-15	NAM
10/07	PRs Meeting and Meeting of Ministers of Energy	
11/07	Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs	
12/07	(Arrival of Heads of State/Government)	
13/07	Summit	
14/07	Summit	High Level Officials
15/07		Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
16/07		Summit
17/07		Summit

11. The Chairman observed that the new date for the XII Summit was decided upon after careful consideration was given to various alternatives, taking into account that the 2002 session of the U. N. General Assembly will commence in September 2002. He said that it would not be possible to bring the date forward, as this would coincide with prior commitments of the Venezuelan government and other high-level meetings to be held in the Latin American region. He noted that in compliance with the Group's decision to limit the duration of Summit meetings to a maximum of 5 days, the Meeting of Energy Ministers and that of the PRs would have to be held on the same day, with the Energy Ministers meeting in the morning and the PRs in the afternoon.

12. The Chairman informed PRs that appropriate invitation letters to the Ministers and Heads of State/Government (HOSG), as well as a manual on Administrative and Logistical Arrangements for the Summit will be circulated in due course. He announced that the following facilities and hospitality will be extended by the Government of Venezuela to delegations:

- Hotel Accommodation for Heads of State/Government and their spouses
- Hotel Accommodation for Ministers and their spouses

- Hotel Accommodation for Personal Representatives
- Transportation services
- Reservation of 10 rooms for each delegation in 6 hotels; (member countries were requested to forward early information on their accommodation requirements).

13. In their various interventions on the schedule of meetings of the XII Summit, PRs made the following comments:

- That the proximity of the NAM and G-15 Summits would pose some difficulties for HOSG and that a reasonable interval between the two Summits should be strongly considered to facilitate attendance;
- Some PRs observed that both Summits were important to HOSG and that the final decision should be left to them; It was however suggested that further consultations should be held to avoid placing HOSG in a position where they would have to choose between the two Summits;
- That since HOSG and Foreign Ministers will be in New York in September for the session of the U. N. General Assembly, it could be possible for them to proceed from Caracas to New York if the Summit is rescheduled for early September 2002; A PR however informed that the holding of the Summit in the last half of 2002 would pose some difficulties for his country, as some important national events will take place during the period;
- That it would be better to hold the XII Summit in June 2002 in order to convey its outcome to the NAM Summit in the spirit of consultations among developing countries; It was however pointed out that June may pose some difficulties for several reasons, including the fact that the International Labour Conference will be convened in June.

14. In response to the various comments, the Chairman observed that, while the new date may not be the best, prevailing circumstances as earlier adduced limited the room for manoeuvre for the Government of Venezuela. It was for this reason, he added, that it was considered to leave one day in between the two Summits to enable HOSG proceed directly from Caracas to Jordan on the conclusion of the XII Summit. He noted that since the U.N. General Assembly will hold in September, it was deemed inappropriate to shift the Summit to November 2002 as it would encroach on the period of the next Chairman of the Group. He however requested delegations that would have difficulties with the proposal to hold the Summit in September 2002 to indicate so urgently. In light of the various concerns raised, the Chairman undertook to refer the matter to Caracas, including the possibility of further consultations with the Government of Jordan to explore the chances of shifting the date of the NAM Summit.

15. In response to some questions, the Chairman informed that while there was no provision made for a meeting of the FCCIS in Caracas, Trade Exhibitions would be held in parallel to the Summit. He remarked that facilities would also be provided for the proposed meeting of the G-15 ICT Task Force in Caracas in the course of the Summit. He stated that the Report of the Meeting of Ministers of Energy, together with the draft Declaration on Energy and Development, will serve as the background documentation for the deliberations of HOSG on the theme of the Summit.

- **Presentation of the preliminary draft of the XII Summit Joint Communiqué**

16. The Chairman formally introduced the initial draft of the XII Summit Joint Communiqué which he described as a working document to be elaborated upon at the experts

level, keeping in mind the need to keep it short and focused. The PRs welcomed the draft text and made the following preliminary comments and suggestions:

- That the subject of Agriculture, which was central to most of the issues addressed in the draft text, should be included;
- It would not reflect reality for the outcome of the Doha Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be considered satisfactory by developing countries; therefore, a much more sober evaluation of the Conference would be more appropriate;
- On WTO, reference should be made to the question of market access and capacity-building;
- That a separate paragraph should be accorded to the problems of LDCs;
- The World Food Summit will be held on 10-13 June 2002 and not 2001 as mentioned in the text;
- That where reference is made to multilateral institutions, specific mention of the IMF and the World Bank should be made;
- Reference should be made to the external debt problems of developing countries;
- That a separate and strengthened paragraph should be devoted to the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development;
- The paragraph on Terrorism should be further strengthened;
- That it was contrary to the Group's practice to consider the outcomes of experts meetings as constituting an integral part of the Joint Communiqué;
- That the paragraph linking the Joint Communiqué to the Declaration should be introduced much earlier in the text;
- The text should reduce acknowledgement of known facts and concentrate more on political statements;
- The Joint Communiqué should look to the future, with a focus on the theme of the Summit, after taking stock, philosophically, of the achievements of the XI Summit in Jakarta;
- That without necessarily lengthening the text, it would be desirable to give an improved political message on South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue;

17. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the useful suggestions made to improve the initial draft of the Joint Communiqué and urged member countries to submit further comments and suggestions in writing to facilitate the work of the experts. It was agreed that meetings of G-15 experts will commence immediately for substantive work on the Draft Joint Communiqué and to report later to the PRs.

Item 4. - Other Business

18. The PRs accepted the Chairman's proposed dates for the future Meetings of the PRs as follows:

- 74th PRs Meeting - 5 April
- 75th PRs Meeting - 10 May
- 76th PRs Meeting - 14 June

19. The PR of Egypt requested for the extension, to 11 March 2002, of the deadline for the submission of information for updating the Directory of National Focal Points for G-15 Projects. On procedural matters, he stated that the List of Participants in PRs Meetings should be routinely forwarded along with the Summary Records. He suggested that after the

adoption of the Provisional Agenda of a PRs Meeting, the Summary Records of the previous meeting should be formally adopted.

20. Before adjourning the meeting, the PRs accorded a formal farewell to Mr. Nihad Fahmy, former Head of the TSF. The Chairman, on behalf of all PRs, welcome Mr. Fahmy to the meeting and thanked him for his presence. He expressed his personal appreciation and that of the PRs for the invaluable services rendered by Mr. Fahmy to the G-15 since his appointment as Head of the TSF in 1999 until his recent departure. The Chairman wished him greater success in his future endeavours. Responding, Mr. Fahmy expressed his appreciation to the PRs for the opportunity offered him to bid them farewell and the kind words addressed to him by the Chairman on their behalf. He observed that his work with the TSF was very rewarding and that the experience gained would be of help to him in his future engagement. He thanked the PRs for the hands of friendship and cooperation extended to him while with the TSF. He prayed that their worthy efforts to advance the cause of the G-15 and the South would be crowned with success. On this note, he took leave of the PRs.

21. The Chairman thanked the PRs for their cooperation and declared the meeting adjourned.
