



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15/03/FM24/3

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**TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**

24 September 2003, New York

Report of the Chairperson of the Personal Representatives of the Group of Fifteen

1. This Report covers the preoccupations of the Personal Representatives of Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen in their recent meetings. It includes deliberations on the stalemate arising from the cancellation of the Summit and suggestions for a substantive review of the vision, orientation, objectives and activities of the Group of Fifteen. The Report also introduces the Group's Proposed Budget for 2004.

I. XII Summit of the Group of Fifteen

2. The Government of Venezuela announced its decision to host the XII Summit in the first quarter of 2004. Personal Representatives warmly welcomed this announcement and saw it as a positive contribution to the future work of the Group. They however felt that a fundamental review of the vision and mission of the Group was still required and therefore recommended that this exercise should be undertaken within the context of preparations for the XII Summit.

II. Outcome of the reflections on the situation of the Group

3. Personal Representatives considered the extended pause the Group went through as an opportunity to reflect deeply on the relationship between the Group's original objectives and the balance to be accomplished after 13 years of its existence. It was felt, for instance, that there was a need for the re-examination of the Group's original objectives and orientation in the context of its past experiences and the fundamental changes that have occurred on the international scene since the founding of the Group.

4. To buttress the foregoing points, reference was made to the seeming lack of clarity of purpose and the increasing difficulty of forging consensus within the Group on several key international issues. It was observed that the Group could have done more in the area of South-South Cooperation to serve as a model for other developing countries and as a credible interlocutor with the developed countries, particularly the G-8. A point was made that the G-15 was essentially a cooperation mechanism and as such, high priority should be placed on South-South technical cooperation. It is generally accepted among member countries that G-15 South-South Cooperation constitutes one of the most fertile grounds that could produce tangible benefits in terms of coinciding views and interests, as well as the forging of mutual

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collaboration links among members. Therefore, the challenge facing the Group requires a serious, deep and frank collective assessment.

5. A crucial point also made was the increasing lack of interest and participation of member countries in the activities of the Group. Furthermore, in light of the high political commitment entailed in the participation of Heads of State and Government in Summit meetings, it would be important to assess the impact that G-15 Joint Communiqués and other actions, have had at both the national policy-making level and on the international scene.

6. In light of the foregoing considerations, Personal Representatives are inviting the Foreign Ministers to exchange views on the issues raised and to mandate the Personal Representatives to carry out further work in this regard, including identifying and strengthening the common political denominators among member states as part of the preparations for the XII Summit.

III. Proposed Budget for the Year 2004

7. The Personal Representatives reviewed the initial Proposed Budget for the year 2004, prepared by the TSF under the supervision of the Chairman of the PRs. The PRs subsequently considered and endorsed the Proposed Budget for the year 2004, contained in document **G-15/03/FM24/4**, amounting to **US\$ 881,549**. The attention of Ministers is kindly drawn to Paragraph 2 of the Note to the Proposed Budget, indicating that the estimated expenditure would be financed with an annual contribution of US\$ 25,000 per member country, together with the expected incomes from investments and the savings realized in the current 2003 Budget. Accordingly, Ministers are kindly invited to consider and approve the Proposed Budget for 2004, along with the financing option recommended by the Personal Representatives.

8. This concludes the report on the recent preoccupations of the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen.
