



**GROUP OF FIFTEEN**  
**The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries**

**G-15/03/PR81/2**

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**EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING**  
**OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE**  
**HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**  
Geneva, 17 December 2003

**SUMMARY RECORDS**

1. The 81<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on 17 December 2003 in Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Blancanieve Portocarrero, the Personal Representative of the President of Venezuela.

2. The Chairperson welcomed the PRs to the last meeting for the year 2003 to continue the substantive preparations for the XII Summit to be held in February 2004 in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. She called for the support and cooperation of all PRs to ensure significant progress in the consideration of the items of the agenda.

**Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document G-15/03/PR81/1.

**Item 2 - Substantive preparations for the XII Summit:**

**(a) Briefing on the current status of arrangements for the XII Summit and its preceding meetings;**

4. The Chairman informed the meeting that, in light of the difficulties expressed by some member countries on the initial date for the XII Summit, the Government of Venezuela will now host the Summit and its preceding meetings from 25 – 28 February 2004 in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. She disclosed that the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela was expected within the week in Geneva, to confirm the date and to convey the formal invitation letters from H. E. President Hugo Chavez to other Heads of State and Government (HOSG) of the G-15. The Chairperson stated that the Government of Venezuela was making all the necessary arrangements to ensure the successful hosting of the Summit. She gave assurances that the Manual on Administrative and Logistical Arrangements for the XII Summit would be made available soon. She made the following clarifications on the official date for each of the meetings of the XII Summit:

- 25 February 2004 - Meeting of the Personal Representatives
- 26 February 2004(morning only) - Meeting of the Foreign Ministers
- 26 February 2004 (Afternoon) - Free time (Arrival/Reception of HOSG)
- 27 February 2004 (Morning) - Free time (Arrival/Reception of HOSG)
- 27 February 2004 (Afternoon) and 28 February 2004 - XII Summit of HOSG

5. The Chairperson clarified that since no meeting of G-15 Energy Ministers will be held, the Draft Declaration on Energy and Development will be transmitted by the Minister of Energy of Venezuela to his counterparts for further comments and review before its transmission to the Summit for consideration and adoption. The PRs however advised that they should be put in the picture of all consultations in this regard and on the status of progress on the matter.

**(b) Consideration of the Revised Draft Joint Communiqué of the XII Summit;**

6. The Chairperson recalled that, after the PRs had considered Revision 13 of the Draft Joint Communiqué (DJC) of the XII Summit at their resumed 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 27 November 2003, G-15 Experts were requested to undertake further drafting work on the document on the basis of the observations and suggestions made by the PRs. She then drew the attention of the meeting to Revision 14 of the Draft Joint Communiqué submitted by the Experts for consideration and invited the Chairman of the Experts Meeting to brief the meeting on the outcome of their work.

7. In his report, the Chairman of the Experts Group informed the meeting that, in their work on the Draft Joint Communiqué, Experts kept to the guidelines given by the PRs. He noted that no progress could be made on the proposal by Kenya on Terrorism as several delegations maintained that some crucial elements on the subject were missing, such as definition, root causes, the call for an international conference, differentiation of Terrorism from the legitimate struggle for self-determination, etc. He observed that the debate on Terrorism was similar to the one PRs went through without success in the previous year. As a result of lack of consensus, the general view was to either add all the missing elements or drop the subject altogether from the DJC. It was agreed by the Experts to append the proposal on Terrorism to the DJC. It was also agreed to annex to the DJC for further consideration by PRs, the Mexican proposal on strengthening multilateralism as well as disarmament and development, which the Experts generally welcomed. The Chairman of the Experts Group also reported that differences among delegates on the interpretation of the Doha Work Programme in relation to agricultural export subsidies accounted for the decision of Experts to place alternative sentences in Paragraph 4 and the entire Paragraph itself in square brackets.

8. The Chairperson invited PRs to consider the outstanding issues in the DJC and to effect a general improvement in the document in order to give it the desired political tone and focus. With respect to paragraph 4 of the DJC that remained in square brackets because of differences on the subject of agricultural export subsidies, efforts were made without success to break the deadlock. While a case was made for the retention of some terminologies in the DJC, several PRs frowned at the inclination to go into details and technicalities rather than making broad political statements befitting a Summit document. It was therefore agreed to establish an open-ended Working Group of PRs to work on a possible consensus language for presentation to the PRs, not later than 9 January 2004. The open-ended Working Group will comprise Brazil, Egypt, Jamaica and other interested parties.

9. The Chairperson remarked that the issue of Terrorism continues to remain outside the DJC since it has proved difficult to agree to a consensus text, in spite of several attempts and the precious time wasted in the past. She therefore remarked that, since the focus of the G-15 was essentially on economic issues. Terrorism should be addressed from this perspective in order to forge the needed consensus. The PR of Malaysia introduced a proposed text on Terrorism containing other elements that were missing from the Kenyan proposal. The proposed text would stand equal status as other proposed texts if these proposed texts were attached to the DJC. She remarked that Malaysia's proposal contained agreed texts and elements from the Final Document of the XIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement and from the earlier draft text being considered by the PRs before the cancellation of the initial Summit scheduled for Margarita Island, Venezuela, in November 2002. In their interventions on the issue of Terrorism, PRs made the following comments and observations:

- It was noted that the mere condemnation of Terrorism and limiting it to only economic consequences, as some have suggested, was not acceptable to some other member countries that insisted on the inclusion of all pertinent elements on the subject such as, root causes, definition, call for international conference, differentiating Terrorism from the legitimate struggle for self-determination, etc.;
- That at the present juncture, the complex and sensitive issue of Terrorism was too important a subject not to be mentioned by G-15 Heads of State and Government, particularly as they had always pronounced on it in their previous Summits;
- That perhaps reference to Terrorism should strictly be in line with previous G-15 Joint Communiqués;
- That should it prove impossible to arrive at a consensus language, the subject should neither be mentioned in the DJC nor attached to it, as the subject tended to pull the group farther away from consensus. Should this be the case, Kenya stated its intention to re-introduce its proposal at the Meeting of Foreign Ministers;
- It was agreed to establish an open-ended Working Group at Experts level, comprising India, Senegal, Kenya, Iran, Malaysia, Algeria and other interested parties, to work on a consensus paragraph on Terrorism. To facilitate this task, the TSF was requested to compile and circulate agreed texts on Terrorism from different fora. Member countries were also invited to submit concise written contributions on Terrorism. The deadline of 9 January 2004 was set for the submission of the result of this effort.

10. Mexico introduced its proposed paragraph 14bis of the DJC in order to broaden the scope of the document as well as the present need for the renewal and strengthening of multilateralism based on the UN Charter. The PR of Mexico also considered it important for the DJC to address the relationship between disarmament and development which had engaged the attention of developing countries for several years. In their interventions, PRs generally welcomed the Mexican proposal but noted that minor adjustments would have to be made to the formulation. A suggestion was made that the proposal should also address the issue of armed conflicts and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

11. The PR of Chile requested that reference in paragraph 2 of the DJC to “declines in the values of exports of developing countries, depressed commodity prices...” should be verified to ensure their veracity in light of the rise in the prices of certain commodities. Paragraph 9 of the DJC was amended, with the addition, after the first sentence, of “In this context, equitable and non-discriminatory access to information and ICTs should be ensured”. The Representative of Nigeria mentioned that the issues of external debt and illegal capital flight were not sufficiently addressed in the DJC and that the latter should have a separate

paragraph. He also stressed that the very important issue of the HIV/AIDS pandemic should receive due mention in the DJC. The Working Group at Experts level was requested to consider all the proposed amendments or comments on the DJC.

**(c) Consideration of the Draft Provisional Agenda of the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Indicative Provisional Agenda of the Plenary Session of the XII Summit of Heads of State and Government;**

12. The Chairperson introduced the revised Draft Provisional Agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Indicative Provisional Agenda of the Plenary Session of the XII Summit of Heads of State and Government. She noted that, with the exception of the inclusion of the challenges facing the G-15 and obvious editorial changes in the Provisional Agenda for the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, both documents were virtually the same as the ones agreed to by the PRs last year in the run-up to the Margarita Summit scheduled for November 2002 before its cancellation. Both agendas were endorsed by the PRs for onward transmission to the Meeting of Foreign Ministers.

**Item 3 - Consideration of financial matters:**

**a) Budget Variance Report for the Third Quarter of the year 2003**

13. The Chairperson formally presented the Budget Variance Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2003 prepared by the official auditors of the Group. It indicated the difference between the Approved 2003 Budget and Actual Expenditures for the period in question, as contained in document **G-15/03/PR81/INF.1**. The Report also contained the status of the Group's investments for the period. The Budget Variance Report and the status of the Group's investments were formally noted by the PRs.

**b) Status of Financial Contributions by the end of the year 2003**

14. The Chairperson drew the attention of the PRs to the high level of unpaid contributions by member countries. She noted that only seven member countries had paid up their contributions for the current year, and that there were cases of some member countries that have not paid their dues as far back as 1999. The Chairperson recalled that during their last Meeting in New York, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs had expressed serious concern on this unhealthy situation that could undermine the smooth functioning of the G-15. She appealed, once more, for the timely intervention of the PRS, particularly now that the Summit approaches, for the expeditious payment of any outstanding contributions. Algeria, as the next Chairman of the Group, expressed concern on this unacceptable situation. In response, Colombia informed that necessary measures were being taken by his government for the settlement of their arrears in the second quarter of 2004.

**Item 4 - Other Business**

15. The Chairperson indicated that the next meeting of the PRs will be held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2004. She remarked that a flexible work programme of meetings of PRs in the run up to the XII Summit will be drawn up to ensure the successful conclusion of the preparations for the Summit. She expressed her thanks to the PRs for their cooperation and wished them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in advance. The meeting was adjourned in the absence of any other matter to be considered.

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