



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

**G-15/07/PR91/2**

Date issued: 2 February 2007

Distribution: GENERAL

---

**NINETY-FIRST MEETING**  
**OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE**  
**HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**  
Geneva, 19 January 2007

**SUMMARY RECORDS**

1. The 91st Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on 19 January 2007 in Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Ali Reza Moaiyeri, the Personal Representative of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Group of Fifteen.

2. The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the PRs in the first formal meeting since his assumption of responsibilities in the G-15. He solicited their valuable support in the task of successfully managing the affairs of the Group. The Chairman was profusely congratulated by the PRs upon taking over the Chairmanship of the Group, and they expressed their readiness to cooperate fully with him in the tasks ahead.

**Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document **G-15/07/PR91/1**.

**Item 2 – Further consultations on follow-up on the decisions and proposals of the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit**

4. The Chairman recalled that at the Working Lunch on 7 December 2006, PRs engaged in a preliminary exchange of views on the main decisions and proposals that emanated from the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit held in Havana. He mentioned that there had been a general consensus on the establishment of a Working Group of Experts to work out the details and make their recommendations to the PRs. He invited PRs to undertake a general exchange of views before establishing a Working Group to undertake further work.

5. The representative of Iran informed the Meeting that his government had taken the responsibility of chairing the Group of Fifteen very seriously, and had already embarked on a number of activities in the capital to prepare the proper grounds for carrying out its tasks. He disclosed that substantial follow-up work had already been undertaken with regard to the identification of new projects announced by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit. In his briefing, he mentioned that working groups involving representatives of various ministries and organizations had been formed and given the task of recommending possible projects

/...

in four areas relevant to the needs of the Group's members, namely, Environmental Protection, Energy, Bio-Banks and Water Management.

6. The representative of Iran informed the meeting that the working groups had recommended the following projects/sectors as possible areas of cooperation within the Group of Fifteen:

### **I. Environmental Protection**

1. Adjusting environmental standards in G-15 countries with their local needs and development requirements
2. Establishing a joint Environmental Research Institute
3. Establishing a G-15 Centre for Environmental Emergencies
4. Establishing a G-15 Training Centre for the Preservation of the Wetlands.
5. Promotion of Eco-Tourism and the related infrastructure in G-15 countries.

The Working Group had also proposed the establishment of an Environmental Fund to finance the approved projects.

### **II. Energy**

1. Oil and gas joint projects,
2. Renewable energy projects,
3. Efficiency in energy consumption.

The representative of Iran stated that the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum was currently considering different options on oil and gas projects and would be reporting to the working group. The potential areas of cooperation on renewable energy were divided into two categories.

A) Areas where Iran has the know-how and experience. These are:

- Manufacturing and installation of solar heaters.
- Providing electricity by photovoltaic systems for people in remote areas.
- Conducting Wind Farm feasibility studies, their micro sighting and designing.
- Manufacturing and installation of 660 kw turbines.
- Holding feasibility studies/workshops on wind energy projects and implementation of solar heating systems and land-fill projects.
- Knowledge sharing in feasibility studies and consulting services for drilling geothermal wells.

B) Areas where Iran welcomes technical cooperation from the other member states. They are:

- The experiences of India, Chile and Egypt in the development of wind power plants by the private sector.
- Joint projects with India, Egypt and Mexico in solar power plants.
- Joint projects with India, Indonesia and Kenya in geothermal energy including digging geothermal wells.
- Know-how and expertise in Malaysia, Brazil, Argentina and India in production of electricity from land fill.

On the question of efficiency in energy consumption, the working group had proposed Energy Auditing, setting energy-consumption standards and establishing national labs for energy rationalization, as possible areas for future co-operations among the member states:

The representative of Iran also mentioned that Iran had proper training facilities in the fields of energy auditing and energy rationalization and would be willing to share the related know-how and expertise. Iran could also share its experiences in conversion of fuel consumption in automobiles and buses to CNG.

### **III. Water Management**

1. Dam construction,
2. Virtual water trade,
3. Production and trade of bottled water.

The representative of Iran informed the Meeting that Iran was ready to hold the envisaged high-level seminar on water management as requested by the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit, by next summer. Another possibility in the area of water management was convening a G-15 Water Forum.

### **IV. Bio Banks**

The Representative of Iran stated that the working group on Bio Bank had produced a blue print for the establishment of G-15 Bio Bank. Such a bank would collect, store, process and distribute biological materials and data associated with them among the members. This blue print, which expounds on the principles of the bank and its functions, was available with his delegation and could be shared with members.

7. Concluding his intervention, the representative of Iran stated that his delegation believed that selection of suitable projects from the above proposals could constitute an appropriate beginning for the Group's activities leading up to the next Summit. He therefore called for the reactions of member countries to the various proposals with a view to reaching agreement for the preparation of a plan of action to be submitted to PRs for further consideration and approval. In their reactions, Personal Representatives warmly welcomed the new project proposals announced by Iran and requested that a copy of the statement listing the project proposals be provided to all members for consideration by country delegations and experts. While welcoming the initiative of Iran in proposing numerous proposals for consideration, the Representative of India mentioned that the thrust and focus of the G-15 should be on economic cooperation and coordination. On the projects, he underlined that while India was receptive to sharing its expertise in various projects, the projects should be chosen very carefully, which apart from the technical feasibility and financial viability, should originate with the intended beneficiary and figure in the latter's national development strategy. He promised to reflect on this in detail in the next Agenda Item.

### **Item 3 – Identification of new projects and criteria for selecting them as well as the review of ongoing G-15 projects.**

8. The Chairman recalled that during the working lunch, several PRs were of the view that existing projects should be reviewed and consolidated before considering new ones. PRs had also emphasized the necessity to identify a set of criteria for selecting new projects. To this end, he invited the meeting to consider and endorse the TSF document titled "Criteria and Guidelines for the Selection and Implementation of G-15 Collaborative Projects".

9. On the general exchange of views on the Performance of Projects, most PRs agreed that as mentioned in the status report prepared by the TSF, most G-15 projects had been unsuccessful with little or no activity undertaken during the past few years. With regard to the review of existing projects, a number of possible explanations were suggested including the absence of sustained funding and faulty project preparation. It was pointed out that the questionnaire sent out by the TSF to all project hosting countries could provide the right answers to the question of project failure. The Head of Office of the TSF, in his intervention, revealed that of the several countries that host G-15 projects, only two had responded to the Questionnaire, and that even here, the responding officers did not provide the required information. He further remarked that some projects had been under preparation for several years and that previous attempts to drop them were resisted by the hosting countries on account of political sensitivity.

10. The representative of India emphasized that the review of the ongoing projects, sponsored by India, was not yet complete and that the outcome would be shared with the TSF, as soon as it becomes available. On the new projects, he emphasized that the projects, following a well defined criteria, should originate with intended beneficiary, should figure in its national development strategy, and should be evaluated, both technically and financially, by a competent organization. The intended beneficiary should explore possibilities of cooperation at the bilateral level with the Members of the G-15 as well as tapping of development assistance from the relevant multilateral institutions. After this, G-15 member countries willing to participate in the project could pledge their contribution. The project should be evaluated periodically and follow a well defined timeline. He also mentioned that as the availability of resources within the G-15 may not be sufficient, all efforts must be made to tap multilateral assistance, both technical and financial, for the G-15 projects. The representative of Senegal pointed out that not all projects had been failures and gave the example of the Transfer of Technology project in Senegal implemented in collaboration with India, under which a computer centre had been established that was providing computer education to students from different parts of West Africa. Many PRs were of the opinion that the number of G-15 projects (21) had been too large to handle and that the failure to sustain them had led to the undermining of the image of the Group. It was also suggested that instead of carrying out a review exercise, it may be best to start with a clean slate and select one or two new projects that could be launched at the next Summit in Tehran.

11. With regard to the criteria for selecting new projects, PRs appreciated the paper prepared by the TSF in this regard. While several PRs were agreeable to go along with the criteria proposed in the paper, others felt there was a need to add a few more. In particular, it was suggested that projects should conform to international standards and requirements in order to attract international support, if required; each project proposal should pass a feasibility study and also be subject to periodic evaluation to enable mid-course corrective measures; funding for the project should be provided for in the national budget of the hosting country. It was also suggested that all participating countries should contribute to project costs in a binding manner. In light of the difficulties of securing consensus, there was a divergence of opinion on whether a project should have the backing of a majority of G-15 countries, or whether the support of 3-4 countries was enough for a project to be approved and implemented as a G-15 project.

12. In general, there was consensus on the setting up of a Working Group of experts to look into all issues relating to ongoing and new project proposals. The Chairman also accepted the suggestion made by several delegations that once the Working Group had studied and short listed new projects from the list proposed by Iran, it would be necessary to refer them to a special meeting of experts in the area of technical cooperation from all countries. PRs also emphasized the need to carry out these activities within a fixed timeframe in order to be able to have a refurbished G-15 project portfolio by the time of the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit.

13. The PR of Brazil stated that in addition to economic cooperation through projects, policy coordination at the political level was an important responsibility of the Group. He stated that after the problems experienced in hosting the most recent Summits, it was vital to have a success story at the political level during the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit. He therefore suggested that while the Working Group was preparing its recommendations on projects, Personal Representatives should focus on coordination of policies on development issues in and outside Geneva. Several delegations endorsed this recommendation and it was agreed to have a meeting of PRs soon to consider and agree on a G-15 mechanism for regular coordination of positions at the level of experts and Ambassadors.

**Item 4 – Further examination of the proposed G-15 Africa Cooperation Fund.**

14. The Chairman initiated the exchange of views on the subject of the proposed Africa Fund by inviting further comments on the TSF paper titled “Discussion Paper on the proposed G-15 Africa Cooperation Trust Fund”. Recalling the word of caution at the Working Lunch, the PR of Malaysia stressed that it was necessary to carefully analyze the implications of establishing the proposed Trust Fund for Africa because of the uncertainty of its funding. For this and other core issues like contributions in cash and kind to the Fund, it would be best to refer the issue to a Working Group. The PR of Brazil offered to provide an expert from his delegation who had expertise in establishing a Trust Fund to assist the Working Group. The Representative of India felt that a simple modality of operation of the proposed Africa Fund could also be considered. He pointed out that the various alternatives being considered implied contribution by the donor member countries of the G-15, upfront and in cash. Proposed modalities do not envisage cooperation in kind through technical assistance or supply of equipment, etc. He suggested that the interested member countries’ promised contribution – both in cash and kind – towards various projects, could be taken note of by the TSF and monitored as the projects progressed along. This, he said, would facilitate both the monitoring of individually pledged contributions as well as the investment of the total funds on various ongoing projects on a regular basis. He concluded that Donor member countries, however, would have to ensure that they do not delay or default on delivery of their promises to insulate the ongoing projects from adverse impact.

15. The PR of Egypt alluded to the fact that the decision to set up an Africa Fund was a political one already taken at the Summit. What was required now, he said, was the task of working out a technical arrangement for the operationalization and management of the fund. He therefore expressed concern on the relevance of referring the Proposal to a Working Group of Experts for further study, for which they lack the required expertise. He further remarked that what was required was for the PRs to take a decision on the profile of the proposed Fund, its funding requirements and commitments, its management and categories of qualifying projects. He suggested that a tie-up with a developmental institution based in Africa would be the best arrangement for the Fund.

16. Summing up the thrust of the discussion, the Chairman remarked that the general view appeared to be that while the suggestions made in the TSF paper were good, there was need for further work so as to take care of the different concerns expressed by PRs. It was therefore decided to refer this matter also to the Working Group of Experts, who would finalize the paper and submit the same to the PRs to finally decide upon the modalities for establishing the Fund.

**Item 5 - Any Other Business**

17. The Chairman thanked the PRs for their constructive participation and again solicited their cooperation for a successful Summit in Tehran. He felt that the exchange of views in this Meeting was a good start towards achieving that goal. The meeting was adjourned on this.

\*\*\*\*\*