



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

G-15/07/PR92/2

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**NINETY-SECOND MEETING**  
**OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE**  
**HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**  
Geneva, 16 April 2007

**SUMMARY RECORDS**

1. The 92nd Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on 16 April 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 began the business of the day by remarking that the meeting had been convened principally to enable PRs continue their discussions on the implementation of the outcomes of the 13th Summit as well as their desire to start a process of consultation and coordination of positions of G-15 countries in international fora.

**Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document G-15/07/PR92/1.

**Item 2 – Establishment of a Mechanism for regular Consultation and Coordination of Positions in International Fora.**

4. The Chairman recalled that during their 91<sup>st</sup> meeting, PRs had decided to consider a process of regular consultation and coordination for the Group's joint positions in international fora. The TSF Briefing Note (Document G-15/07/INF.1), which recalls previous successful experiences of the Group, had been made available to all delegations in advance. He further recalled that the TSF had sent out notes requesting member countries to submit proposed topics for consideration at this meeting. He therefore invited PRs to propose possible topics of common interest on the global development agenda around which the Group could forge consensus for joint positions.

5. The PR of Egypt stated that the Group should aim at developing common positions on economic issues, and in this context, he remarked that the focus could be on activities within the WTO and UNCTAD (which oversees GSTP negotiations). The PR of India noted that the

declarations of the G-77, NAM and G-15 Summits provide sufficient guidance on issues of common concern and that further discussion among PRs/Experts should add value to this. He also suggested that developing common positions for the forthcoming UNCTAD XII Meeting in Ghana next year could be a fruitful outcome of these efforts. The PR of Argentina expressed his country's desire to see greater consultation between the G-15 and the G-8, and this could be a possible area of coordination among member countries. The PR of Malaysia mentioned the need to work with other developing country groups like NAM and the G-77. Several delegates remarked that the cornerstone of the process should be anchored on the potential value added to be derived from the exercise since there were other developing country groupings involved in such ventures. The representative of Mexico pointed out that value addition would always take place given that not all G-15 countries were members of bodies like the WTO or G-77.

6. Summing up the discussion, the Head-of-Office of the TSF noted that all Permanent Representatives who participated in the discussion had agreed to begin a new initiative of evolving common G-15 positions on emerging economic issues of interest to developing countries. PRs had also agreed that the focus of such efforts ought to be value addition and care needed to be taken to avoid duplication of efforts in other forums.

7. The Chairman then invited suggestions from the PRs about the specific kind of mechanism that could be initiated for regular consultation among G-15 countries. He proposed that the relevant experts of each identified item undertake informal consultations, under the coordination of the Chairman, to map out the objectives to be attained. The result of such consultation could then be formally communicated to the PRs for their final approval. The Chairmanship of the Group will then take the responsibility to raise the common position as adopted by the PRs, in the relevant international body.

8. There was general agreement on the need to keep the consultation process informal and flexible to start with. However, many PRs felt that instead of delegating the task to the experts right away, PRs should first meet informally to explore the possibilities of convergence on issues of common interest. In addition to the foregoing, the said informal consultations would enable the PRs to issue specific mandate and guidelines to the Group of Experts that would subsequently submit its recommendations to the PRs for consideration and action. It was however stressed that the eventual consultations among G-15 experts in the relevant fora should be exploratory and without preconditions. Once a degree of consensus was attained, the experts could then forward proposals to the PRs for consideration. Without prejudice to the foregoing, and the necessity for joint positions where consensus exists, the other value added to be derived from the consultations is to ensure that G-15 members speak with one voice on issues of common interest. The Chairman therefore agreed to convene an informal PRs session for this purpose.

### **Item 3 - Decision on the Recommendations of the G-15 Expert Group Meeting on follow-up action on the outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> G-15 Summit**

9. In his introductory remarks under this agenda item, the Chairman reminded the PRs that during their previous meeting in January 2007, PRs had preliminary discussions on the decisions and proposals adopted at the last Summit. PRs had also mandated the Experts to further examine all the issues in more detail and to submit recommendations. He was pleased to note in this regard that the outcome of the Experts Meeting had been submitted for

consideration and decision in this meeting. He invited the Coordinator of the Meeting of the Experts to formally introduce the highlights of their recommendations.

10. A brief presentation on the outcome of the Experts Meeting was made to the PRs by Mr. Rashid Mokhtari, Desk Officer for G-15 issues in the Permanent Mission of Iran and Coordinator of the Meeting of Experts. He emphasized that the Experts Meeting had been in the nature of a brainstorming session that had focused on four issues: (a) Review and rationalization of old G-15 projects; (b) Selection of new projects proposed by Iran; (c) The proposed High Level Meeting on Rural and Agricultural Development and the Management of Water Resources to be held in Tehran in the Summer of 2007; and (d) The profile for the proposed G-15 Africa Cooperation Fund. The recommendations made by the Experts against each of these issues, circulated to all Missions vide Document G-15/PR92/3, were read out to the PRs.

11. The Chairman then invited PRs to consider and decide on each of the recommendations of the experts. A summary of the discussions that followed is given below:

**(a) Review and rationalization of old G-15 projects**

12. The delegate of Mexico stated that her country agreed with the recommendation to eliminate the old projects. The PR of Egypt also stated that the G-15 should begin projects activity afresh, with a clean slate. The PR of Venezuela appreciated the recommendation that countries still had the option to submit old proposals as new projects and recalled in this context that his country had made a number of project proposals relating to South-South cooperation in petroleum, communications, education etc. The PR of India stated there was the need to examine and spell out the reasons as to why the earlier projects had failed or underperformed. He therefore suggested an open-ended working group of PRs comprising the TROIKA PRs and other interested PRs. He emphasized that lessons learnt in the process would go a long way in ensuring the success of a new round of G-15 projects.

13. While there was no express rejection of the recommendation made by the Experts in this regard, it was decided to form an open-ended working group of PRs comprising the TROIKA PRs and other interested PRs to look into the causes of the failure of old G-15 projects as proposed above. The findings from this enquiry would be presented at a subsequent meeting of the PRs.

**(b) Selection of new projects proposed by Iran**

14. The PR of Chile expressed his government's preference for Iran's project proposals on water management and renewable energy including bio-fuels. Likewise, the PR of Argentina stated that his country was interested in any of Iran's project proposals under renewable energy. The PR of India expressed his country's preference for Iran's project proposals in the areas of energy and the environment. He also felt that selecting projects in areas where there could be an exchange of experiences between Iran and other G-15 countries would be more conducive to greater participation. The PRs of Chile, Venezuela, Argentina and India, all emphasized the need for greater clarification on the project details by Iran, including the extent of private sector involvement envisaged, funding methods and the names of the technical agencies that would be responsible for project implementation.

15. The Chairman stated that in view of the project preferences expressed and in deference to the request of several countries, Iran would make a detailed presentation on water and energy projects in the near future.

**(c) The proposed High Level Meeting on Rural and Agricultural Development and the Management of Water Resources to be held in Tehran in the Summer of 2007**

16. No objections to the recommendations of experts regarding the proposed Seminar were expressed. The PR of Argentina pointed out that the dates of the G-15 seminar should not clash with another seminar on a similar topic being organized by IFAD in Stockholm in August 2007.

17. In the absence of any views to the contrary, the following recommendations made by the Experts were deemed to have been accepted by the PRs: *(a) the follow-up meeting be ideally held in the Summer of 2007 (August excluded) and that in order to ensure good participation, advance notice of at least two months should be given to members once the exact dates for the Meeting were finalized; (b) the agenda for the meeting should focus specifically on reviewing the conclusions formulated by the experts at this Seminar/Workshop and to explore the possibility of establishing a G-15 mechanism or clearinghouse for the exchange of experiences on rural and agricultural development and the management of water resources aimed at enhancing good practices and information sharing among member countries, as mandated in the Joint Communiqué of the last summit; (c) as a result of the sensitive nature of water issues, it was agreed that no political declaration should emerge from the event; (d) participation in the follow-up meeting should be at the level of Permanent Secretary or its equivalent, in the Ministries dealing with Agriculture, Rural Development and/or Water Resource Management of G-15 countries.*

**(d) Examination of a possible profile for the proposed G-15 Africa Cooperation Fund**

18. The delegate of Mexico stated that her country is already implementing projects on health and other social sectors in many countries of Africa including Angola and Egypt. While not opposed to the idea of the G-15 Africa fund, Mexico presently was not in a position to contribute to it and preferred that the Fund be financed through voluntary contributions rather than by the UN scale of assessment formula recommended by the experts.

19. The PR of Chile stated that Chile was a participant in the Africa-South America Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria in November 2006, following which a programme of economic cooperation between Latin American and African countries was being drawn up. Furthermore, Chile had recently contributed \$5 million to UNITAID, a health initiative for developing countries. He stated therefore that the G-15 Africa Fund should be established by the countries who had initiated the proposal during the Caracas Summit.

20. The PR of India similarly stated that his country already had annual bilateral projects worth \$1 billion with African countries. He stressed that before deciding on the size and mechanism of the fund, it was necessary to spell out in clear terms, the form and shape of the proposed fund, including what the funds to be mobilized would be used for, its size, management, and how to factor in the various bilateral cooperation programmes existing between some member countries and African countries, a point that was also echoed by some other speakers. He agreed that the financing of the G-15 Africa Fund must be based on voluntary contributions.

21. The PR of Zimbabwe stated that the spirit of the G-15 Africa Fund had always been voluntary. He therefore called on member countries that had made pledges in Caracas to put forward proposals for the take-off of the Fund. He reiterated that the Havana Summit had given a mandate to the PRs to draw up the modalities for establishing the Fund and stressed that this august body should not douse the flame for the Fund.

22. The PR of Egypt remarked that a political decision to create the Africa Fund had already been taken at the Summit level and that the Group needed to clearly signal that it was going ahead and establishing the Fund. He emphasized that details of end-use of funds and specificities of projects should be left to the agency that would be responsible for managing the Fund. The PR of Malaysia expressed the view that while the Havana Summit had approved in principle the setting up of the G-15 Africa Fund, the form and shape of the Fund was still open for discussion and debate.

23. In his summing up of the discussion under this agenda item, the Head-of-Office of the TSF remarked that clearly two different viewpoints exist with regard to the G-15 Africa Fund, which were not easy to reconcile. He suggested that further consultations were necessary in order to arrive at a final settlement on the matter. The delegate of Iran suggested that the open-ended meeting of TROIKA PRs that was to examine the failure of old G-15 projects could also be given the task of trying to harmonize the different viewpoints on the Africa Fund. As several PRs were agreeable to this suggestion, it was decided that the open-ended working Group of PRs would also discuss possible architecture of the Africa Cooperation Fund, including initial corpus, modalities of contribution, administration of the Fund and execution of the projects to be financed from it.

#### **Item 4 - Update on the possible Host Country for the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government**

24. The Chairman recalled that in the course of the Working Lunch held on 7 December 2006, the Personal Representative of Brazil had informed PRs that the attitude of his Government towards hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> G-15 Summit was in principle, positive. He had undertaken to provide a formal response by early 2007, when ongoing consultations on the matter would have been concluded. He therefore inquired of the delegate of Brazil if there was any new development on his country's positive disposition to hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Group. In response, the representative of Brazil stated that he had no new information to provide in this regard and that the matter was still under consideration in his capital.

#### **Item 5 - Any Other Business**

25. The Chairman, through the Head-of-Office of the TSF, urged PRs to facilitate the early payment of annual contributions to the budget of the Group for the year 2007, as well as any outstanding dues. As no further issues were raised, the meeting was formally declared closed by the Chair.

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