



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

**G-15/07/PR93/2**

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**NINETY-THIRD MEETING**  
**OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE**  
**HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**  
Geneva, 03 July 2007

**INTERIM SUMMARY RECORDS**

1. The first session of the 93rd Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on 3 July 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. Welcoming the PRs, the Chairman stated that this meeting had been convened to resume deliberations on the actions required for the successful implementation of the key decisions and proposals emanating from the last Summit as well as to commence preliminary preparations for the yearly meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers in New York.

**Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document **G-15/07/PR93/1/Rev.1**.

**Item 2 - Briefing on the preparations for the High Level Meeting on Rural and Agricultural Development and the Management of Water Resources to be held in Tehran on 2-4 September 2007**

4. The Chairman recalled that about a month ago, the TSF had conveyed the decision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to convene the High Level Meeting on Rural and Agricultural Development and the Management of Water Resources on 2 - 4 September 2007 in Tehran. He then introduced Dr. Yazdandoost the Head of the Iranian Institute for Water Research, responsible for organizing the event, to the PRs, and invited him to present a progress report on the preparations for hosting of the meeting.

5. In his presentation, Dr. Yazdandoost explained that the focus of the High Level Meeting that would take place either in Tehran or Isfahan would be water management, with Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as the overarching theme. The first few sessions would be devoted to presentation of Country Reports and these would be followed by Thematic Sessions based on inputs provided by resource persons. Country Reports would

contain, inter alia, a brief description of water resource management as implemented by each country, a brief background of country positions on adoption and implementation of IWRM and views and visions on the thematic issues as a means of facilitating IWRM approaches through collaboration between member countries. The Thematic Sessions would cover Capacity-Building and Networking, Water Financing (creating a G-15 Water Fund), Establishing a G-15 Water Council and Rural and Agricultural Development. The meeting would be followed by a technical tour to one site in Iran where IWRM could be seen being implemented in practice.

6. Dr. Yazdandoost further revealed that a logo for the Meeting had already been created. He also distributed a pamphlet prepared by the Iranian Water Research Institute containing preliminary information about the event. A website for the meeting ([www.ac.ir/G15](http://www.ac.ir/G15)) would become operational in two weeks time which participants could access for obtaining further details about the Meeting. The website will also have a downloadable visa application form. Apart from high-level officials and experts from G-15 countries, representatives from various relevant international bodies were also likely to participate. The language of the meeting would be English and no simultaneous translation had been arranged.

7. Responding to the briefing, the PR of Mexico congratulated Iran for organizing an informative and comprehensive presentation. He stated that Mexico, having hosted the previous World Water Forum, attaches high importance to the subject of the forthcoming Meeting and was willing to extend full support to Iran in its organization.

8. On his part, the PR of Senegal stated that the African Development Bank along with the OECD had prepared a report on the water situation in Africa, which the meeting organizers could take into consideration. Senegal and Venezuela suggested that simultaneously translation facilities during the Meeting would facilitate in-depth exchange of views.

9. The PR of India welcomed Iran's elaborate efforts in preparing for the Meeting. He mentioned that the Meeting in Iran would be a meeting of Technical Experts which would be relevant if the purpose was to facilitate exchange of views and experiences on water resources management. In particular, the Meeting could also consider encouraging networking amongst agricultural universities of the G-15 countries. He however felt that in view of the sensitive nature of the subject, institutional arrangements like a G-15 Water Fund or G-15 Water Council required further discussion and deliberation at a different level and would be beyond the purview of a technical meeting. He urged the organizers to regard the event as part of a process of consultation on a vital subject and be careful not to prejudge the outcome of the Meeting. He also sought more details about the Country Reports since several countries had varied agro-climatic zones and a wide variety of water resources

10. The PR of Nigeria commended Iran's initiative on the subject of water management, and agreed with the suggestion of India regarding networking of agricultural universities.

11. The delegate of Argentina said that water has been described as the "oil of the future" and so, the forthcoming Meeting was very important. As NGOs were extremely active in the water resources sector, the option of getting Country Reports prepared by experts outside the government should be explored. He further suggested that caution be exercised before creating a Water Fund or Council, as new institutions require sustained financial support.

12. The delegate of Brazil agreed with India and Argentina that creating a Water Council or Water Fund were policy decisions that would not be possible at the Tehran meeting but would require political approval at the level of Foreign Ministers.

13. The delegate of Venezuela informed PRs that his country had already nominated high-level participants for the Tehran Meeting. He agreed that major policy decisions were possible only at the political level. He also suggested that the important issue of environmental impact of water be considered during the Meeting.

14. On her part, the delegate of Kenya expressed her appreciation on Iran's preparations for the Meeting and confirmed her country's participation. She requested that more information be made available on the concept of the G-15 Water Fund.

15. The PR of Indonesia stated that water was of strategic importance to his country and that the national focal point had been nominated to participate in the Tehran Meeting. He believed that the Meeting afforded a good opportunity to come up with concrete recommendations that could be endorsed at the next Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

16. In his intervention, the delegate of Egypt mentioned that information about the Tehran Meeting had been sent to his capital and confirmation about participation was awaited. He suggested that as Regional Development Banks had considerable experience of implementing projects in the water sector, they could be involved in the Meeting.

17. Supporting Egypt's suggestion of involving regional development banks, the delegate of Senegal proposed that apart from Country Reports, sub-regional Best Practices could also be exchanged during the meeting.

18. In his response, Dr. Yazdandoost said that he had noted all the suggestions made by the delegates. He mentioned that the Meeting's website will indicate in greater detail the expected format of Country Reports. He clarified that the concepts of a G-15 Water Fund and G-15 Water Council were mere suggestions that could be further explored by member countries to see if they had the potential of evolving into projects for approval at the Ministerial level.

19. The Chairman thanked Dr. Yazdandoost for his presentation and for the good work that he was doing in preparing for the forthcoming Meeting. He also thanked all delegates for their useful suggestions and promised to pay attention to their comments, especially with regard to the Water Fund and Water Council. He agreed with the observation that the forthcoming Meeting should be viewed as part of an evolving process of consultations and deliberations on issues of importance within the G-15. He urged PRs to take urgent steps to submit the names of their participants for the meeting and the name of the institution in each member country, which is the counterpart of the Iranian Institute for Water Research, as well as the brief "Country Report" to be submitted to the meeting in Tehran as earlier requested.

### **Item 3 - Consideration of Financial Matters:**

#### **(a) Financial Report of the Group for the year 2006 prepared by the Auditors;**

20. The Chairman presented the Financial Report for the year 2006, prepared by the official auditors, indicating the approved and actual expenditures of the Group for the

previous year. He noted that the financial statement was simply the summation of the quarterly Variance Reports for 2006, which had earlier been circulated and noted. In light of this consideration and the fact that the report was in order, the PRs formally took note of the Financial Report before its transmission to the next Meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

**(b) Proposed Budget for the year 2008;**

21. The Chairman formally presented the Draft Proposed Budget for the year 2008, amounting to US\$997,875, as contained in Document **G-15/07/L.3** that was circulated to all member countries many weeks ago. He observed that the proposed estimates were within the range of the approved budgets for recent years and based on the streamlined figures for the 2007 budget for practically all items with slight adjustments for inflation, annual increments and exchange rate variations. He stated that as in recent past, it is recommended to finance the Proposed Budget using a mix of the prevailing country contributions of US\$25,000 per member country, income from investments as well as part of the past budgetary savings. He then invited the meeting to consider and endorse the Proposed Budget for 2008 along with the recommended formula for financing it.

22. The delegate of Chile observed that as country contributions were in US dollars, exchange rate changes were likely to impact the G-15 budget. He desired to know the percentage of expenditure incurred in Swiss francs and desired also that the TSF recommend to the PRs whether contributions in some other currency were preferable. In his reply the Head of Office of the TSF stated that the bulk of expenditure was incurred in Swiss francs and the only time US dollars were spent was when expenditure on foreign travel had to be incurred. He further added that in the present circumstances it was preferable to have country contributions in Swiss francs but professional advice from the auditors would be sought on the subject and placed before the PRs for consideration.

23. Several PRs expressed agreement with the proposed budget and the method of financing it. The Meeting then formally endorsed the Draft Proposed Budget for 2008, for onward transmission to the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers for consideration and approval.

**(c) Budget Variance Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2007.**

24. The Chairman invited PRs to formally take note of the Budget Variance Report for the First Quarter of the year 2007, prepared by the auditors of the Group. The Report, which he suggested was in order, indicated the difference between the Approved 2007 Budget and Actual Expenditures for the period in question. Attached to the Report was the status of the Group's investments for the same period. The meeting took note of the Budget Variance Report for the First Quarter of the year 2007.

**Item 4 - Exchange of views on a possible date for convening the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Foreign Ministers in September 2007 in New York**

25. The Chairman stated that in line with the Group's yearly tradition, it was proposed to convene the 29th Meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers in September 2007 in New York to coincide with the 62nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly. He observed that, in order to facilitate maximum participation at the appropriate level, it was always recommended to hold the meeting, preferably, back-to-back with the Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign

Affairs of the G-77 usually held in September in New York. He noted that the meeting would provide the opportunity for Ministers to receive a progress report from PRs on their follow-up efforts in the implementation of the decisions and proposals arising from the Havana Summit, other activities of the Group as well as the consideration and approval of some financial matters of the Group.

26. He observed that, for now, the definitive date in September 2007 for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the G-77 Ministers was yet to be fixed. He noted that, this notwithstanding, the Group would commence preparations for the meeting early in September. To this end, he urged each PR to convey to the TSF, in due course, his or her Minister's preference between holding the G-15 Ministerial Meeting a day before or a day after the G-77 Ministerial Meeting, once the date for the latter becomes known.

#### **Item 5 - Update on a possible Host Country for the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government**

27. The Chairman recalled that the Government of Brazil recently informed that it would not be able to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit of G-15 Heads of State and Government, after the one to be held in Tehran, due to its heavy schedule of international commitments already undertaken. He remarked that, in light of this understandable turn of events, the Group was now compelled to start the search for a possible host country for the 15<sup>th</sup> Summit from among the Latin American and Caribbean member countries of the Group. To this end, he proposed that intensive informal consultations should be undertaken by PRs from the region, and urged Ambassador Oscar CARVALLO VALENCIA, the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, to coordinate the consultations as the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean member countries on the G-15 Troika.

28. In his intervention on the matter, the delegate of Brazil confirmed that following intensive consultations in the capital, it had been decided that it would not be possible for his country to organize a G-15 Summit properly due to a very heavy agenda of international meetings. He expressed Brazil's apology for not taking the decision much earlier.

29. Reacting to the assignment delegated to his Ambassador on the matter, the delegate of Venezuela said that he had taken note of the Chairman's request to organize consultations among Latin American and Caribbean member countries in the light of this development. He gave assurances that his PR would begin the process by consulting with countries that have yet to host a G-15 Summit.

30. The PR of Mexico stated that he would take personal interest in this issue and requested the TSF to provide his delegation with a list of countries that had hosted the previous G-15 Summits.

#### **Any other Business**

31. The Head of Office of the TSF brought to the notice of the meeting the latest Working Paper prepared and circulated by the TSF titled 'Economic Justification for a Bank of the South'. He observed that the goal of the paper was to enrich the ongoing debate in the G-77 and the G-15 on the subject.

32. The delegate of Egypt underlined the necessity of operationalizing the G-15 Africa Cooperation Fund, given that the Fund had received approval at the Summit level.

33. In view of the paucity of time, the Chairman suspended further proceedings with the observation that the remaining items on the agenda would be taken up when the 93<sup>rd</sup> PRs Meeting was reconvened at a convenient date in September 2007.

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