



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

Date issued: 13 September 2010
G-15/10/PR98/2

Distribution: GENERAL

NINETY-EIGHTH MEETING
OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN
Geneva, 2 September 2010

SUMMARY RECORDS

1. The 98th Meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held on 2 September 2010 in Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Kshenuka Senewiratne, the Personal Representative of the President of Sri Lanka to the Group of Fifteen.

2. The Chairperson welcomed the PRs to the first formal PRs meeting under the Chairmanship of Sri Lanka and informed them that the meeting will focus mainly on the substantive preparations for the annual Meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers in September in New York.

Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

3. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document **G-15/10/PR98/1/Rev.1**.

Item 2 - Preparations for the 33rd Meeting of the G-15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 24 September 2010 in New York

4. The Chairperson reiterated that the 33rd Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs will be held on Friday, 24 September 2010, from 3pm - 6pm in Conference Room 7 at the U.N. Headquarters, New York on the margins of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. To this end, she stressed that it was crucial to ensure adequate preparations for the smooth conduct of the meeting.

5. Furthermore, she observed that the items listed in the Draft Indicative Provisional Agenda of the 33rd Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs are mainly those traditionally dealt with by Ministers in their inter-sessional meetings in New York. The only new element, this time around, she pointed out, is the presentation of the Report of the High-Level Task Force on the Review and Revitalization of the Group of Fifteen, as mandated by the 14th Summit. The PRs endorsed the Draft Provisional Agenda, as

amended^{*}, for onward transmission to the 33rd Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Item 3 – Report of the High-Level Task Force on the Review and Revitalization of the Group of Fifteen

6. The Chairperson recalled that the 14th Summit of the Heads of State and Government had mandated the establishment of a high-level task force to undertake an assessment on the progress, financial situation and prospects of the Group and to submit recommendations on the revitalization of the Group to the Foreign Ministers. As Chairperson of the Task Force, she was pleased to observe that the Task Force was able to attain the needed consensus on all its findings and recommendations, as fully reflected in its Report that had been circulated to all PRs for information. In this regard, she expressed her profound appreciation to members of the High Level Task Force for the admirable manner in which they successfully discharged this important responsibility in the course of the series of preparatory meetings held in Geneva, culminating in the formal meeting of the Task Force held from 5-7 August 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. PRs took due note of the report and endorsed it for submission to the meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

7. The PR of Algeria drew the attention of the Meeting to the recommendation made in the Report of the HLTF regarding the opportunity to advance the interests of the G-15 in the G-20. In this regard, he recommended that the Chairperson should convene a meeting of PRs before the forthcoming G-20 meeting in November 2010 to consult on a joint G-15 position to be advanced by G-15 member countries with concurrent membership of the G-20. The Chairperson assured the meeting that she would organize such deliberations in due course.

Item 4 - Consideration of Financial Matters:

(a) Financial Report of the Group for the year 2009 prepared by the official Auditors

8. The meeting considered and formally took note of the Financial Report of the Group for the year 2009 prepared by the Official Auditors, indicating the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2009. The Report will be submitted to the 33rd Meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

9. In response to a request for an analysis of the investments of the Group, including in particular, the impact of the recent financial crisis on these investments, and the need for a clearer presentation of investments, the TSF was requested to prepare such an analysis, including details of their purchase, current market value, annual returns and the impact of the crises on their value. Furthermore, among the clarifications sought was

^{*} Item 4(b) of the Annotations, relating to the proposed budget for 2011, was amended to reflect the decision to refer it for further examination to the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms to be established by PRs as well as to request Foreign Ministers to delegate to PRs the authority to approve the 2011 budget on their behalf.

why an amount of CHF 6,876.72 had been shown under Summit expenses when no Summit had taken place in 2009¹.

(b) Draft Proposed Budget for the year 2011

10. The Chairperson introduced the draft proposed budget for 2011 along with the recommendations for financing it and invited the meeting to consider and endorse the same. In their response, the PRs made some comments relating to the budget proposals. It was observed that a smaller amount had been budgeted for publications, compared to the current year at a time when the Group needed to increase its international visibility. The Head of Office of the TSF clarified that the reduction was necessitated as no Summit is to take place in 2011, there would be no expenditure that year for the publication of a Summit booklet. In his response to a comment that the High Level Task Force had recommended that arrears should not be used for budgetary purposes, he clarified that what was agreed in this regard was in relation to the arrears owed by Colombia and Peru only before their withdrawal from the Group.

11. Furthermore, some PRs commented that about 85% of the budget for 2011 has been earmarked for personnel costs. It was also noted that the proposed amounts for the budget lines for 2011 seemed far in excess considering the actual amount spent in 2009. It was further noted that in light of the recommendations of the HLTF to revitalize the Group, there may need to be an examination, not only of the proposed figures, but the substance relating to the budget lines themselves.

12. Due to a number of concerns, including the aforementioned, the PRs therefore found it difficult to endorse the proposed budget for 2011 in its present form and recommended that the different budget lines be examined in depth by the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms as recommended in the Report of the HLTF. It was therefore decided to request the Foreign Ministers to approve that the Proposed Budget for the year 2011 be referred by the PRs to the said Working Group for further examination. In consequence, as well as the fact that Foreign Ministers will not be able to meet again before the year 2011, the Ministers would be further requested to mandate the PRs to consider and approve, on their behalf, the Proposed Budget for 2011, after its review by the said Working Group. In this regard, the Chairperson announced that the Working Group would be established in the first week of October 2010 and would submit its report to the PRs by end-October 2010.

(c) Budget Variance Reports for the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2010

13. The Meeting further took note of the Budget Variance reports for the first and second quarters of the year 2010. The Quarterly Budget Variance Reports, which were considered to be in order, indicate the difference between the Approved 2010 Budget and

¹ For the records, the TSF wishes to note that these expenses related to travel, DSA etc. already incurred by staff who were on the ground in New York before the Summit, which was originally scheduled to be held in September 2009, was postponed.

Actual Expenditures as well as the status of the Group's investments for the respective periods.

Item 5 - Any Other Business

14. The Meeting considered the recent correspondence between the UBS bank and the TSF regarding completing the formalities for the authorized signatories for incurring financial expenditures of the Group. The PRs noted that as per the rules of the Group, PRs representing the previous, present and future Chairmen of the G-15 constituted the Troika PRs, and were authorized to sign on behalf of the Group. However, in view of the present situation in which the country that would be the next chairman of the G-15, and therefore a member of the Troika, was yet to be decided, the PRs agreed that Mrs Kshenuka Senewiratne, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka (the present chairperson of the G-15) and Mr. Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (the previous chairman of the G-15) would represent the Group as Troika members and act on its behalf on all financial matters, until further notice. Accordingly, all banking transactions are to be countersigned by Ambassador Kshenuka Senewiratne as Chairperson of the Troika PRs and in her absence, by Ambassador Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi.

15. In light of the unresolved situation concerning the future Chairman of the Group, the PR of Algeria urged Sri Lanka as the current Chairman of the Group to ensure that early action is taken to find a host country for the 16th Summit to be held after the next Summit in Sri Lanka in 2012. The Chairperson gave her assurances in this regard. On this note, the Meeting was brought to a close.
