



GROUP OF FIFTEEN

The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

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NINETY-NINTH MEETING OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN

Geneva, 1 November 2010

SUMMARY RECORDS

1. The Ninety-Ninth Meeting of Personal Representatives (PRs) of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen was held in Geneva on 1 November 2010 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Kshenuka Senewiratne, Personal Representative of the President of Sri Lanka to the Group of Fifteen. Before proceeding with the agenda, the Chairperson informed PRs that the main purpose of convening this meeting was to follow-up on the outcomes of the 33rd Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on 24 September 2010, in New York.

Item 1 – Adoption of the Agenda

2. The meeting adopted its Provisional Agenda, without amendment, as contained in Document **G-15/10/PR99/1**.

Item 2 - Establishment of the two Working Groups:

3. The Chairperson noted that, following the approval by the Foreign Ministers, this meeting is required to establish the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms to examine ways of enhancing the efficiency of the TSF and the financial management of the Group. Additionally, and as a matter of priority, this Working Group was required to review the Draft Proposed Budget for 2011 and submit the outcome of its work to the PRs for further action before transmitting it to the Foreign Ministers for consideration and approval. The Meeting was similarly required to establish the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation to review the status of implementation of existing G-15 initiatives and to examine the possible areas for sectoral cooperation and those that emerged from the 14th Summit in Tehran.

4. The Chairperson proposed that for the proper discharge of their assignments, the Working Groups should be open-ended in terms of membership. Furthermore, for the sake of regional balance, she proposed that countries from different regions should chair the Working Groups. In this regard, she proposed Chile as chair of the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms, while Algeria or Egypt could chair the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation.

With this brief introduction, she invited suggestions on the composition of the Working Groups and the time frame for the completion of their assignments.

5. In their responses, the PRs made the following comments and suggestions:

- Supported the position that the Working Groups should be open-ended and that Chile and Egypt/Algeria could chair them. The delegate of Algeria stated that his delegation could not as yet undertake to accept the Chair of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation until he had consulted with his PR.
- A time period of two to three months be given to the Working Groups to submit their recommendations.
- As the Proposed Budget for 2011 has to be approved at the level of Foreign Ministers, the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms should start its work urgently and submit its recommendations on the same expeditiously.
- Pending the approval of the proposed 2011 Budget, staff salaries and other indispensable recurrent expenditure should continue to be defrayed.
- The work of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation would be incomplete without consultations with the departments in charge of technical cooperation in the member countries.
- A clarification was sought on how the Terms of Reference (TOR) were to be finalized.

6. Summing up the discussion on this agenda item, the Chairperson stated that there was general agreement that the membership of the Working Groups be open-ended in order to facilitate maximum interaction and that the Working Group on Institutional Mechanisms would be headed by Chile. With regard to the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation, the PRs would await the outcome of the discussion between the PRs of Algeria and Egypt. She remarked that the Report of the High Level Task Force had given a broad enough scope for the Working Groups to finalize their own TOR. She observed that it was important for the Working Group to scrutinize the Budget Variance Report for the Third Quarter as it is related to the monitoring of the implementation of the Group's budget. The Chairperson stated that the Working Groups should attempt to complete their work and submit their recommendations by the time of the first meeting of the PRs in 2011, tentatively scheduled for the first week of January 2011. She endorsed the request by the PRs for the payments related to the day-to-day functioning of the TSF and other essential recurrent expenditure to be met without waiting for the 2011 budget to be approved.

Item 3 – The establishment of a Consultation and Coordination process on key international issues of interest to member countries

7. The Chairperson recalled that the Foreign Ministers had also approved the recommendation of the HLTF to initiate a regular process of policy consultations and coordination in Geneva on key international issues of common interest to member countries. To this end, and in keeping with the entire future programme of work to be considered in a composite manner, she proposed that the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation should include this aspect in its Terms of Reference.

8. In their responses, the PRs made the following comments and suggestions:

- PRs stressed the importance of this initiative and that the Group could select from a wide range of topics that emerged during the Tehran Summit.
- As policy consultation and coordination involves political dialogue, it was considered necessary to have an open-ended Group of PRs to decide on the particular issues to be taken up for expressing a common G-15 position.

9. In sum, the general opinion of the Meeting was that while the initial steps on the process of consultation and coordination on key international issues of interest to member countries be undertaken by the Experts, the PRs would subsequently deliberate on those recommendations in order to establish the areas for a common position and the required mechanism.

Item 4 - Consultations on the modality for strengthening dialogue with the G.8 and the preparation of a G-15 Joint Statement for presentation at the November 2010 meeting of the G-20

10. The Chairperson invited comments and suggestions on the draft Joint Statement prepared by the TSF, as well as on the modalities for its presentation to the G-20 Summit. The following comments and suggestions were made:

- It was imperative to send the draft for clearance to the respective governments of member countries, as the contents are cross-sectoral, other line Ministries would need to be consulted.
- Since the modalities of the G-20 Summit is an interactive dialogue between Heads of State and Government, the Joint Statement should be submitted as a written document.
- A suggestion was made that the statement could be submitted to the G-20 Summit by the Chairman of the G-15.
- The draft Statement was too lengthy and needed to be reduced to a single page, if possible. One way of reducing its length would be to limit the contents to a single paragraph on each agenda item.
- A reservation was expressed on the mention of the G.8 in the agenda item under consideration, as that body was moribund.

11. Summing up the discussion, the Chairperson said that considering the modalities of interaction at G-20 meetings the preferred option would be for the G-15 Joint Statement to be submitted in written form to the G-20 Summit. It was also considered unavoidable that PRs consult with their capitals before the text could be finalized. In this regard she urged the PRs to endeavour to obtain feedback from the capitals by 4 November 2010, as the G-20 Summit was scheduled to be held in the second week of November 2010. There was also consensus on the need for a more concise statement. It was agreed that a Meeting of Experts would take place at 10.00 hours on 5 November 2010 to be followed by a PRs Meeting at 15:00 hours the same day, exclusively to finalize and approve the G-15 text for submission to the G-20 Summit and confirm the modalities for its transmission. In the meantime, delegations could submit their proposals for deletions/addition to the draft text to the TSF.

Item 5 - Consultations on the composition and reactivation of the Troika and the related search for a possible host country for the 16th Summit

12. The Chairperson informed the Meeting that there had been some progress in the efforts to find a representation from the Latin American and Caribbean region for the Troika. The delegate of Brazil stated that his country was willing to take up a position in the G-15 Troika in the spirit of representing the member countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region. He further informed the Meeting that a new President of Brazil had just been elected and the new government would be taking office on 1 January 2011. The decision on whether the assumption of this responsibility would also involve Brazil hosting the 16th G-15 Summit would only be considered after the new government had assumed office.

13. PRs unanimously welcomed Brazil's offer to serve on the Troika. The Chairperson directed that the formalities of sending fresh signatures of the Troika PRs to the bank be completed at the earliest. She expressed the hope of all member countries that the new Brazilian government would agree to taking over the Chair of the G-15 from Sri Lanka in 2012.

Item 6 - Any Other Business

14. The Chairperson suggested that the Group could consider making a joint statement at COP 16 of the UNFCCC to be held in Mexico later this year. Should member countries consider it necessary, they should submit their views to the TSF for compilation, she added. The delegate of Mexico stated that her country would welcome such a statement.

15. The delegate of Indonesia sought clarification on two issues in the Budget Variance Report for the Third Quarter that was circulated. In the first case, clarification was sought on why there were variations in the expenditure under Education Grant between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters. In particular, why an amount of CHF 4,909.18 had been shown in the negative in the second quarter under this budget head. The Head of Office of the Technical Support Facility clarified that schools bills varied for different semesters and therefore expenditure under education grant was not uniform for every quarter. Moreover, school bills were paid in full by the office initially. Thereafter, 25% of the fees paid is deducted from the salaries of the concerned officers and refunded to the office in line with the relevant regulation. The said amount of CHF 4,909.18 represents such a refund, representing an income in the second quarter and not as expenditure.

16. The delegate of Indonesia also wished to be informed of the reason for the expenditure under Bank Charges having exceeded the budget for 2010. The Head of Office of the TSF informed the meeting that the budget provision for Bank Charges for 2010 was based on charges for the previous year. However, during the current year some investments that were earlier with Merrill Lynch had been transferred to UBS, involving the payment of more custody fees. In addition, he stated that as advised by the UBS, the Group has some investments in short maturity currency hedging securities, for which a monthly rollover charge was payable. These, he said, were the reasons for the increase in Bank Charges.

17. Finally, the Chairperson proposed and the Meeting agreed that for the year 2011, PRs meetings would take place in the afternoon of the first Wednesday of every second month.

18. The Chairperson thanked the PRs for their attendance and constructive contributions to the success of the Meeting.
