



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level of Developing Countries

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE CHAIRMAN
INFORMAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
OF THE SUMMIT LEVEL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(GROUP OF FIFTEEN)

New York, 26 September 1991

1. The Meeting was chaired by H. E. Mr. Armando Duran, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela. The main item for discussion was the preparations for the forthcoming Second Summit Meeting of the Group of 15 to be held in Caracas, Venezuela. A list of those who attended the Meeting is attached.

1. DATES FOR THE CARACAS SUMMIT

- 1.i. In his opening statement, the Chairman welcomed the delegates and explained the circumstances surrounding the change of dates for the Summit from June to November. However, in response to a request made by Mexico, the Chairman informed the meeting that there was a need to consider holding the Summit on 27-29 November and not on 25-27 November as originally decided. The issue of new dates had been discussed by the members of the Steering Committee when they met earlier this month in Accra, Ghana.
- 1.ii. The delegate from Mexico reiterated that a change of dates would also, perhaps, be more convenient for those Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State/Government who would be attending the Summit Meeting of the Rio Group to be held in Cartagena on 30 November.
- 1.iii. With the exception of a few members who expressed the need for consultation with their Capitals before final confirmation of acceptance of the new dates, the meeting agreed that earlier commitments to attend would stand, irrespective of the change in dates.
- 1.iv. It was agreed that the schedule for meetings would remain unchanged, but should include the holding of a meeting at Foreign Ministers level on a date immediately preceding the Summit. The new dates for meetings would thus read as follows:

November 24-26

Meeting of Personal Representatives of Heads of State/Government.

November 25

Meeting of the Steering Committee.

November 26

Meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers.

November 27-29

Meeting of Heads of State/Government.

2. ATTENDANCE

- 2.i. On the issue of the level of participation and in response to questions raised in this context, the Chairman emphasized that for reasons of credibility and sense of purpose, there was a need for the maximum attendance at the highest level. Minimal attendance at Head of State level would indicate a lack of political will and commitment and would not be in keeping with the agreed objective of holding a Summit Level Meeting.
- 2.ii. The Meeting agreed that unless circumstances at the national level made it impossible for a Head of State/Government to attend, it was imperative that a formal commitment be made by all Members to ensure attendance at the highest level.

3. SUMMIT AGENDA

- 3.i. On the issue of a Summit Agenda, it was agreed that there was a need for the Summit Meeting to be of a more structured nature that would produce concrete proposals on relevant issues of concern to all members. It was also agreed that such a framework would generate more interest and imbibe the meeting with a greater degree of responsibility and purpose.
- 3.ii. For this reason, it was suggested that a Meeting of Personal Representatives be convened in Geneva or another suitable location at which an agenda could be discussed and agreed on, highlighting specific issues on which individual Heads of States/Government would want to focus attention. In this context, reference was made to Annex E of the "Summary Record of the Chairman" of the 8th Meeting of Personal Representatives as an useful, indicative document.
- 3.iii. It was agreed that a Summit agenda and background documentation should be finalized for distribution by the end of October.
