



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level of Developing Countries

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN
New York, 26 September 1996

SUMMARY RECORDS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The meeting was chaired by H. E. the Honourable Dr. I.S. G. Mudenge, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The Chairman then invited the Chairman of the Personal Representatives (PRs) to present his report on the deliberations of the 32nd PRs meeting held on 24 September 1996. The Chairman of the PRs, H.E. Ambassador T.J.B. Jokonya reported as follows:

- The PRs had held extensive discussions on the draft communiqué and had agreed that it was a technically sound document. They were of the view that the Ministers could give further political guidance on the draft, as necessary.
- An appeal had been made to all countries to attend the Sixth Summit and to be represented thereat at the appropriate level.
- A preliminary progress report on the CITT was presented orally. A more comprehensive report would be given during the Sixth Summit.
- Regarding the Summit Retreat agenda, it has been suggested that the Heads of State/Government (HOS/G) could undertake a review of the G-15's operations and objectives particularly in the light of the evolving international economic system.
- On the possible expansion of the Group, the PRs had been briefed that extensive consultations had been carried out in respect of the African region while other countries were expected to assist in the consultations regarding the Asian region. It was noted, in this regard, that West Asia i.e. Middle East and the Gulf region were presently not represented in the G-15.
- The Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe had delivered, in person, the G-15 message to the G-7 in Lyon, France, on behalf of the G-15 Chairman.

- Concerning the restructuring of the Technical Support Facility, the PRs were informed that the Fifth Summit mandate on this matter had now been successfully concluded. The new staff complement was given as follows:

Mrs. Silvana F. da Silva	Senior Economist (P5)	(Brazil)
Mr. Aik Hoe Lim	Economist (P4)	(Malaysia)
Mr. William Ijeh	Administrative and Finance Officer (G6)	(Nigeria)
Mrs. Ayesha Scwerdtel	Secretary	(India)
Mrs. Chedra Bullock	Secretary	(Zimbabwe)

- The proposals on the budget for 1997 were submitted but were not discussed by the PRs. The PRs will consider these proposals in Harare prior to submitting them to the Ministers for their endorsement.
- The PRs submitted a draft indicative agenda for the plenary meetings of the Summit for the Ministers' consideration.
- In view of the discussions held and agreements reached in the PRs meeting, it was recommended that the Ministers devote some time during this meeting to an exchange of views on the current international economic situation.

The Chairman informed the meeting, regarding the delivery of the G-15 message to the G-7, that he was mandated by H.E. President R.G. Mugabe to personally deliver the message in France. He met the French Minister for Cooperation with whom he spent an hour discussing issues related to the G-15, among others. He stated that France showed great interest in and had a positive attitude towards the G-15's initiative. The G-15 message was distributed to all G-7 members by President Chirac. The Chairman noted that France had indicated willingness to have a G-15 representative address the G-7 Summit. This had not been possible though because while four other members were agreeable to that idea, two others did not concur with the proposal. President Chirac responded to the G-15 message and his letter would be circulated to all G-15 members at an appropriate time.

The Chairman briefed the meeting of the consultations he had conducted regarding the possible expansion of the G-15 membership.

He reported that he had visited some countries on the instructions of H.E. President Mugabe. The possible expansion of the Group to include one or two countries in Africa is promising. Consultations were continuing in respect to the Asian region and a clearer picture as to the outcome of those consultations was anticipated by the time of the Sixth Summit.

In the ensuing discussions, all delegations expressed their satisfaction with the Draft Joint Communiqué as currently presented. Some were of the view that the title needed some refinement so that it conveys the full scope of the ideas addressed in the document. Others suggested that the chapter on South-South cooperation required further strengthening.

Virtually all delegations highlighted the need to strengthen South-South cooperation and consultation especially within the context of the G-15. It was stressed that strengthening South-South cooperation remains a fundamental objective of the G-15. To this end, member countries were encouraged, through their National Focal Points, to energetically participate in

the existing G-15 projects. Emphasis was also placed on the need to pay increasing attention to strengthening trade relations among G-15 countries through full utilisation of the GSTP.

Noting that all G-15 countries and indeed developing countries stand to lose in international negotiations unless they negotiate together, some delegations urged that more consistent efforts be exerted within the G-15 to consult and adopt common approaches in some multilateral fora.

Several delegations commented on issues related to the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference and to globalisation in general. There was general agreement on the need to focus on the problems of implementing the Uruguay Round Agreements. There was also an acknowledgement that there were divergent views within the G-15 on the "new issues" some countries are trying to place on the WTO agenda. It was also noted that globalisation and growing interdependence brought with them the spectre of the possible marginalisation of some developing countries. Developed countries were urged to meet their commitments under the Uruguay Round Agreements particularly in the area of market access for products of export interest to developing countries.

Views were also exchanged on issues that could be considered by the Heads of State/Government both in plenary and during the retreat. The delegation of Egypt's suggestion that the HOS/G's retreat discussion could also include the question of international terrorism and joint efforts to confront that problem was supported by all delegations. The delegation of India proposed that the HOS/G emphasise, in their discussions and pronouncements, that any change in the multilateral trading system should promote the interests of developing countries. The delegation of Malaysia suggested that the HOS/G could, during the retreat, also exchange views on the future role and direction of the G-15. These discussions would include issues relating to the possible expansion of the membership of the Group. The delegation of Mexico proposed that a sub-item be added to item 2 of the draft indicative agenda for the Summit to read: "Unilateral actions with extra-territorial effects which could distort international trade". It further proposed that the issue of negative effects of globalisation on developing countries' economies be considered for discussion during the retreat. Some delegations suggested, in view of the political implications of the item on unilateral actions, that this item be recommended for the retreat discussions.

The Chairman, in conclusion, made a spirited plea to all delegations to attend the Sixth Summit at the highest political level. Such high level attendance would reflect the seriousness and commitment that all member countries attach to the G-15. He indicated that so far four/five HOS/G had confirmed their attendance while one or two had sent apologies.
