



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

**G-15/01/FM22/2/Rev.1**  
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**REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN**  
**OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN ON THEIR TWENTY-SECOND MEETING**  
Jakarta, Indonesia, 28 May 2001

1. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Fifteen was held on 28 May 2001 in Jakarta, Indonesia under the Chairmanship of H. E. Dr. Alwi Shihab, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. The Chairman on behalf of the Ministers, welcomed Colombia and the Islamic Republic of Iran who were participating in the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on the margins of a Summit for the first time, after the admission of their countries at the X Summit in Cairo. He remarked that the participation of both countries will certainly enrich the deliberations of the meeting and the attainment of the noble objectives of the Group of Fifteen. In response, representatives of both countries pledged their cooperation and commitment to the objectives of the Group.

2. In his opening remarks, the Chairman reiterated the profound awareness of the Group of Fifteen for the opportunities offered and the challenges posed by the phenomenon of globalization which will lead to greater global interconnection and interdependence. He noted that while some countries have indeed managed to integrate their economies into the global economy more quickly than others, realizing faster growth and reduction of poverty, other developing countries are lagging behind. He acknowledged that the opportunities presented by information and communication technologies (ICT) could therefore, facilitate the narrowing of the gap between developed and developing countries if present constraints to making digital opportunities available to all, are removed. He therefore expressed the hope that the meeting would be able to devise effective strategies and action-oriented programmes towards the transformation of the digital divide into a highway of digital opportunities which, in turn, would bring the developed and developing world together into a situation of equitably shared global prosperity.

3. The Ministers expressed their deepest condolences to the Government and people of Zimbabwe upon the passing away of Honourable Moven Mahachi, Minister of Defence of Zimbabwe. They urged H. E. Dr. Isack Stanislaus Gorerazvo Mudenge, the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, to convey their thoughts and prayers to the bereaved family and the Government and people of Zimbabwe in their moment of this grief.

4. In their deliberations, the Ministers attended to the various aspects of the management of the Group's affairs, institutional mechanisms for cooperation and consultation, G-15/G-8

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dialogue, preparations for the XI Summit and exchanged views on the theme of the XI Summit. Details of the proceedings are presented in this report.

### **Item 2 – Report by the Chairman of the Personal Representatives**

5. The Ministers received the Report of the Chairman of the Personal Representatives (PRs) on the activities undertaken by the Group to follow-up on the decisions of the X Summit and those of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs as well as the substantive preparations for the XI Summit, contained in document **G-15/01/PR68/2**. The meeting endorsed *Energizing North-South Dialogue* as the proposed theme for the Summit Retreat, without prejudice to the prerogative of Heads of State and Government (HOS/G) to discuss any issue in a free-wheeling manner at the Retreat. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Personal Representatives for their commendable efforts and took note of the Report.

### **Item 3 – Indicative Provisional Agenda of the XI Summit of the Heads of State and Government**

6. The Ministers considered the Indicative Provisional Agenda and Annotations for the XI Summit, as contained in document **G-15/01/XI/1** and endorsed it, as proposed, for transmittal to the Heads of State and Government for their consideration and adoption.

### **Item 4 – Report on the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers Trade/Economy**

7. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs took note of the recommendations and conclusions in the Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Trade/Economy, held on 27 May 2001, as contained in document **G-15/01/TM6/2**.

### **Item 5 – Exchange of views on the New Global Economy, including the Challenges of Harnessing the Potentials of the Digital Era for Development**

8. Against the background of the theme of the XI Summit, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on the challenges faced by developing countries in the new global economy, with a special focus on harnessing the potentials of the digital era for development. The meeting acknowledged the catalytic and dynamic role of ICT in propelling rapid economic growth and prosperity in the new economy. In recognition of the socio-economic and political significance of the emergent knowledge and information society, the Ministers expressed serious concern on the various constraints that prevent developing countries from taking advantage of digital opportunities. They noted that the widening digital divide would accentuate international inequalities between the developed and developing countries and called for national, regional and international measures to promote universal access to digital opportunities.

9. While acknowledging the timeliness of the various international initiatives to narrow the digital divide, the Ministers welcomed the concrete recommendations and conclusions contained in the Report of the G-15 Experts Group Meeting on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Development, held on 18-19 April 2001 in Jakarta. The Ministers expressed their agreement to the establishment of the G-15 Task Force on ICT for Development to follow-up on the recommendations suggested in the Report. Proposals

were made that the Task Force on ICT should focus on, *inter alia*, the following areas of cooperation:

- Exchanging of views and experiences on developing policy framework;
- Compiling an inventory of success stories on ICT;
- Monitor developments in ICT and its impact on social and economic development;
- Promoting ICT for SMEs and rural business;
- Reducing costs in providing hardware and software;
- Formulating best practices projects;
- Cooperation in the field of Community Tele-Centers (CTCs);
- Take benefit of international ICT opportunities and financial resources, including those of the UN ICT Task Force, G-8 DOT Force, and other multilateral ICT initiatives.

10. In this respect, the Ministers welcomed the initiative of Egypt to set up a G-15 Online Resource Center. As a follow-up to the decision of the Ministers of Trade/Economy of the G-15 at their 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting in June 2000 in Cairo, the Ministers welcomed the recent agreement between Malaysia and Egypt to establish an On-Line Electronic Trade Network within the G-15. They also welcomed the offer by Colombia to establish a G-15 Trade Data Base Center, as well as to promote a G-15 short-term and middle-term trade agenda.

11. On international trade issues, the Ministers emphasized the urgent need to address the implementation issues of concern to the developing countries in respect of the Uruguay Round Agreements and Decisions and the urgent need for the operationalization of the Special and Differential Treatment (S&D). They emphasized the necessity to improve market access to products of export interest to developing countries, such as agriculture and textiles, through the removal of protectionist measures imposed by industrialized countries. They called for the exclusion of social and environmental issues from the WTO agenda. The Ministers agreed that these crucial issues and the imperative to incorporate the development dimension should constitute the highest priority in future multilateral trading negotiations.

12. On international financial flows, the Ministers underscored the urgency of international actions to reform the international financial architecture (IFA) in order to ensure more efficient global financial markets and stable and sustainable private capital flows to developing countries. The Ministers expressed strong support for Malaysia's offer to convene a meeting of G-15 experts to assess current work on IFA issues, address gaps in terms of the special circumstances of developing countries and emerging economies, and to articulate views of G-15 countries at various international fora.

#### **Item 6 – Functioning and Methods of Work of the G-15, including Membership**

13. Further to the Progress Report of the Personal Representatives on the Functioning and Methods of Work of the G-15, including Membership, submitted to the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 30-31 October 2000, in Mexico City, the Ministers received with appreciation, the final Report of the PRs on the subject, as contained in document **G-15/01/L.2/Rev.1**. The Meeting took note of a number of remarks including the necessity to enhance South-South cooperation through closer coordination with various other developing countries' groupings, such as the G77 and G-24, as well as with UNCTAD and United Nations Specialized Agencies. The Ministers reiterated the necessity to shorten the duration of the Summits by limiting pre-Summit Meetings to those of the PRs and Ministers

of Foreign Affairs. With these observations, the Ministers endorsed the Report for onward transmittal to the Summit.

### **Item 7 – Implementation of the G-15 Human Resource Training Programme**

14. As a follow-up to the decision at their 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting in Mexico City, the Ministers received with appreciation, the Report of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Committee on Investment, Trade and Technology (CITT) on the Modalities for the Implementation of the G-15 Human Resource Training Programme, as contained in document **G-15/01/FM22/4**. In their consideration of the Report, the Ministers approved the two basic documents recommended for the implementation of the programme, namely, *A Conceptual Paper on Modalities for the Implementation of the G-15 Human Resource Training Programme* and *Possible Elements on the Modalities for the Implementation of the Human Resource Training Programme*. The Ministers noted, with encouragement, the various initial training offers made by Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mexico under the programme and welcomed the training offers announced by other member countries in the course of the Meeting.

### **Item 8 – G-15/G-8 Interaction**

15. The Ministers commended the recent efforts of the PRs in sustaining the G-15 dialogue with the G-8, as reflected in the Report of the Chairman of the PRs. They reiterated the desire of the Group to elevate the interaction between the two groups to Ministerial level in order to give greater substance and profile to the process. In their exchange of views, the Ministers emphasized the increasing relevance of a revitalized international cooperation for development, informed by genuine dialogue, partnership and mutuality of interests, in the face of the daunting challenges and difficulties generated by globalization. The meeting observed that progress on the dialogue depended essentially on the political will of the G-8. Against the background that the Retreat of Heads of State/Government will focus on measures for energizing North-South dialogue, the Ministers pledged their commitment to pursue with greater vigour, measures identified by the HOSG for the attainment of the said objective. Within this context, the Ministers urged the PRs to sustain their efforts on further steps to be taken to intensify and elevate the interaction between the G-15 and the G-8, with a view to enhancing North-South Dialogue.

### **Item 9 – Draft Joint Communiqué of the XI Summit of the Group of Fifteen and the Draft Jakarta Declaration on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Development**

16. In their consideration of the Draft Joint Communiqué of the XI Summit proposed by the PRs, the Ministers noted the appropriateness of the substance and thrust of the observations and policy recommendations contained in the draft text. They noted that the Draft Joint Communiqué was balanced and focused. The Ministers agreed to include in paragraph 11 of the Draft Joint Communiqué, the following :

*“We welcome Malaysia’s offer to convene a meeting of G-15 experts to examine the current work on the IFA issues in order to better articulate positions in various international fora on IFA reforms, including the International Conference on Financing for Development”.*

17. With the above amendment, the Ministers agreed to recommend the Draft Joint Communique to the Heads of State/Government for their consideration and adoption. The meeting welcomed the initiative for a Summit declaration on ICT to clearly project the Group's interest and concern on the evolution of the digital era. The Ministers considered that the Draft Jakarta Declaration on ICT for Development presented by the PRs was concise, with a strong message to the international community. They also welcomed the proposed framework of intra-G-15 cooperation on ICT as reflected in the draft text which will be further carried out by the G-15 ICT Task Force for Development. The Ministers therefore agreed to recommend the Draft Jakarta Declaration on ICT for Development to the Heads of State/Government for their consideration and adoption.

#### **Item 10 – Financial Report for the Year 2000**

18. The Ministers received and took note of the Financial Report of the year 2000 prepared by the official Auditors of the Group of Fifteen, as contained in document **G-15/01/AUD**.

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19. His Excellency, Mr. Luis Alfonso Davila Garcia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela and in-coming Chairman of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Fifteen expressed his appreciation to the out-going Chairman of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for his stewardship of the affairs of the Group during Indonesian Chairmanship. He assured the Ministers of Venezuela's commitment to advancing the objectives of the G-15 and the successful hosting of the XII Summit of the Group to be held in 2002 in Caracas, Venezuela.

20. Before adjourning the meeting, the Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to them and the excellent arrangements for their meeting.

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