



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

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**REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN**  
**OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN**

Tehran, 15 May 2010

I have the honour to report that the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Fifteen was held on 15 May 2010 in Tehran, under my Chairmanship. This report reflects the outcomes of the Meeting.

In my opening remarks, I expressed the hope that through consultations and the benefit of past experiences, the Group could reflect on the recent global, financial and economic crises and problems facing its member countries and provide appropriate and sustainable solutions that will make the Group more dynamic and give further impetus to its activities. I stated that the recent world economic and financial crisis has presented developing countries with formidable challenges such as rising unemployment, declining exports and revenues as well as social and economic instability. I recalled that the objective of the founding fathers of the Group was to play a more significant role in regional and global arrangements to reflect the potentials and capacities of its member countries in international interactions and developments. In the new millennium, I called on member states to strengthen their ties in order to meet global challenges especially those emanating from economic globalization, the prevailing international financial architecture, utilization of IT, fighting poverty, illiteracy and other barriers to development and enhance their cooperation in areas of common interest.

Furthermore, I called upon member countries to take advantage of their political and economic commonalities on the one hand, and issues such as investment, bilateral and multilateral trade, energy and IT development as the main areas of mutual cooperation, on the other. I noted that these factors have created a conducive atmosphere for the enhancement of collaboration and creation of working groups to explore our capacities and facilitation of cooperation among G-15 member countries. To this end, I underscored the necessity for member countries to redefine their status and modality of cooperation with one another as well as with those member countries that play an effective role in global arrangements. I therefore urged Ministers to provide practical and concrete recommendations for consideration by the Summit on the removal of existing barriers to their cooperation and the promotion of the efficiency of the G-15 to enhance cooperation in line with the lofty objectives of the Group.

In their response to my opening remarks, Ministers underscored the significance of the issues and observations made and acknowledged that my remarks have set the proper tone

for the discussions that would follow. In their various interventions, Ministers made a number of useful and far-reaching comments and suggestions, which include the following:

- The need to retool the Group, provide it with fresh impetus, improve coherence and better understanding among member countries to enable it better implement the Group's decisions and to position it to meet new global challenges. To this end, the proposal to establish a Task Force was welcomed;
- Suggestion for the Group to focus on a limited number of issues within a given time frame, such as those to be addressed by the proposed G-15 working groups and issues of current interest such as climate change, the Doha Round and the international financial crisis. It was suggested that G-15 conferences on these issues could be convened possibly at the ministerial level, which could lead to frameworks of cooperation under a designated coordinator;
- The adverse consequences of the recent financial and economic crisis on developing countries were underlined, necessitating the urgency of establishing a new international financial architecture;
- That South-South cooperation should remain the main goal of the G-15 to enable member countries address the problems of development such as poverty, inequality, unemployment and the improvement of the welfare of our populations;
- In recalling the unsatisfactory performance of G-15 collaborative projects in the past, the streamlining of project guidelines that would ensure the sustainability and viability of future projects was welcomed;
- That further efforts should be undertaken to strengthen cooperation and consultation among member countries, while making additional efforts to broaden and deepen consultations and the adoption of common positions in the international arena;
- The need to take advantage of the tremendous resources and potentials of the members of the Group, especially in the field of energy and transport, banking, trade, investment as well as to harmonize cooperation in financial matters in order to protect their interests in the face of policies of the dominant powers;
- While noting that developing countries face new challenges such as water shortages and climate change, a call was made to explore possible frameworks for cooperation in this area by taking advantage of the technical capabilities within the Group in these areas, and exploring the support of relevant agencies of the United Nations to this end;
- It was noted that the character of the G-15 as a Summit Level Group implies its political importance and therefore, it would not be out of place for political issues to be addressed, in addition to economic and development issues, by our Heads of State and Government;
- Mention was made on the need for the Group to further explore the possibility of mutual collaboration in the area of banking, mass media, education, training, tourism and natural resource development. To this end, member countries were urged to facilitate the exchange of experiences and to consider some previous initiatives in this regard that could not be carried forward;

Furthermore, the Ministers attended to a range of issues dealing with the management of the Group's affairs. These included consideration of the Status Report of the Chairman of the Personal Representatives on the activities of the Group, assessment of the various substantive arrangements for the successful hosting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit of G-15 Heads of State and Government, including its Indicative Provisional Agenda and

the Draft Joint Communiqué. Further details of the proceedings are presented in this report.

### **Consideration of the Status Report by the Chairman of the Personal Representatives on the activities of the Group:**

Ministers received with appreciation the Report of the Chairman of the Personal Representatives, H. E. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi, Ambassador and Personal Representative of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the G-15. The report contained the status of actions taken with respect to certain past initiatives of the Group as well as some of the decisions taken by Foreign Ministers at their recent meetings. The main activities mentioned in the Status Report included the High Level Meeting on Water Resources Management and Rural and Agricultural Development in Tehran; the status of consultations on the establishment of the G-15 Working Groups on Water Resources Management and Agriculture and Rural Development; the proposed G-15 project on renewable energies; the G-15 Africa Cooperation Fund; streamlining of the criteria for G-15 project selection and implementation; recommendation to establish a Task Force to evaluate the progress and prospects of the Group; activities of the G-15 Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services (FCCIS); composition of the Troika Board of Supervisors; matters related to the financial liabilities of some countries following their withdrawal from membership of the Group; and preparations for the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit.

I wish to report that Ministers welcomed the proposal by the PRs to establish a High Level Task Force to evaluate the Group's past achievements and challenges as well as its progress and prospects and financial situation, taking into account the Report of the External Consultants that undertook a similar assignment in 2005. It was agreed that the Task Force would provide action-oriented recommendations on the revitalization of the Group, to be submitted to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their meeting on the margins of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. I invite Your Excellencies to note that this recommendation, already reflected in the Draft Joint Communiqué, is therefore submitted to the Summit for favourable consideration and approval.

Ministers discussed the comments and suggestions made by some PRs on some aspects of the procedural issues on the way the G-15 functions, including the formats of the Summit Retreat and Plenary. These suggestions included the following: (a) Opening the Plenary Sessions of Summits to the public and the Press in order to enhance the international visibility of the Group's activities; (b) Permitting Heads of Delegation, other than Presidents/Prime Ministers (or their deputies), to participate in Summit Retreats; (c) Communicating the theme chosen for the Retreat well in advance to member countries to ensure proper briefing to Heads of State and Government; and (d) Recalling the Group's past practice of dialogue with the G-8, that G-15 member countries belonging to the G-20 should serve as an interface to advance G-15 positions in the G-20.

I wish to inform that, in discussing the proposal to open the Plenary Sessions of Summits to the public and the press, two views emerged. One view was that during the inaugural (opening) session of the Summit that is traditionally open to the Press and the public, in addition to the Chairman's opening statement, any Head of State and Government who wishes to make his statement may do so. The other view was that statements by Heads of State and Government other than the Chairman should be made in the closed session of the

plenary for the sake of confidentiality, and that if the latter so wishes, the statement could be made available to the press.

### **Consideration of the Draft Joint Communiqué of the 14th Summit:**

I am pleased to inform Your Excellencies that Ministers expressed satisfaction on the large measure of consensus among member countries on the updated draft text of the Joint Communiqué submitted by the PRs for consideration. The few outstanding issues were rapidly resolved in a spirit of understanding and solidarity, with the reservation expressed by Mexico and Argentina on paragraphs 51 and 52 dealing with the Palestinian situation. Taking into account the foregoing considerations, Ministers endorsed and agreed to transmit the Draft Joint Communiqué to the Summit for consideration and adoption.

In recognition of the importance of the opportunity presented by the current Summit for consultation and decision on ways and means to meet new challenges, including the effects of the global financial crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced a draft for consideration by the Ministers and possible adoption by the Summit. This draft includes elements on the need for constructing a new international financial order, revitalizing the G-15 and strengthening cooperation among its members.. The draft was discussed in the meeting and its substance was welcomed by some delegations and the need for following up on the issues contained therein was emphasized. However, due to time constraint and the need of some delegations to consult with their capitals, it was concluded that the consultation on the issues referred to in the draft should continue within the Group in the future.

I wish to draw attention to the fact that Ministers also noted the indication given by the delegation of Brazil that it is in the process of preparing and submitting some ideas for revitalizing the Group, in the shape of a concept paper. In this regard, it should be noted that the concept paper was later circulated to all member countries after our meeting.

In my concluding remarks, I expressed my appreciation for the support and cooperation that I had enjoyed from all Ministers during the Chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I also urged Ministers to extend the same courtesies and support to my worthy successor, His Excellency, the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, whose government would assume Chairmanship of the Group at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> Summit meeting.

I wish to remark that, before bringing the meeting to an end, the Ministers commended the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its exemplary stewardship of the affairs of the Group during its Chairmanship. They also expressed their appreciation to the staff of the Organizing Committee, the staff of the TSF and the Translators for their invaluable efforts in facilitating the Meeting.

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