



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level of Developing Countries

FOURTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN

New York, 29 September 1992

SUMMARY RECORDS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Meeting was Chaired by H. E. Mr. Djibo Laïty Ka, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senegal.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman thanked his colleagues for agreeing to meet on 29 September. This meeting, he said, was of special importance, as it provided the opportunity to review arrangements, in an informal yet pragmatic manner, for the holding of the Third Summit in Dakar and for the convening of a Business and Investment Forum for which the host country had made comprehensive preparations.

The Chairman commended the Troika PRs in Geneva and the TSF for the excellent documentation provided for this meeting and emphasized the remarkable dynamism displayed by the Group both at the global level and in its pursuit of reinforcing South-South Cooperation. In this regard, special mention was made of the Joint Communiqué of Kuala Lumpur and Caracas, the G-15 Position Paper on the New World Order, and the progress made in the implementation of projects.

The Chairman re-iterated that the valuable work being done by the G-15 and the TSF must continue and be strengthened, in the context of which the question of financial contributions—their scale and periodicity—should also be considered.

The Draft Provisional Agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented, and appears as **annex A**.

A Point of Order was raised by H. E. the Foreign Minister of Malaysia with regard to Yugoslavia's present representation within the Group. It was emphasized that, in light of the UNGA's recent Resolution, any G-15 decision on this issue should be consistent with that taken by the world body and that a final decision on this matter should be taken at the Summit.

The delegation from Yugoslavia protested at the raising of this issue, stating that the Resolution of the UNGA referred to their country's presence in that particular forum and should not influence its participation in the G-15.

The Chairman took note of the views expressed and informed the Meeting that the Heads of State/Government had the latitude to discuss any question, political or otherwise, although the presence of the delegation from Yugoslavia at this meeting should not in any way pre-judge the decision to be taken at the Summit.

Item 1. Preparations for the Third Summit Meeting.

- **Logistical arrangements.**
- **Summit Agenda.**
- **Draft Joint Communiqué.**

and

Item 2. Review of activities of the G-15.

- 1.i The Chairman drew the attention of the Meeting to the comprehensive document prepared by Senegal which provided information on all aspects of the logistical arrangements made for the Summit. For purposes of protocol, details on the Retreat for the Heads of State/Government which had been established as a Summit tradition, would be conveyed to all member countries in due course.
- 1.ii H. E. Ambassador Alioune Sene presented a brief and comprehensive review of the proceedings and outcome of the 13th Meeting of Personal Representatives which had taken note of the progress made in the implementation of G-15 Projects and the results of the various G-15 Expert Group Meetings held during the course of the year and had also negotiated and reached consensus on a Draft Provisional Agenda for the Summit. H. E. Ambassador Sene also informed the Meeting that a Preliminary Draft Communiqué had also been discussed and that it had been agreed that comments from member countries should be transmitted to Geneva by 19 October 1992 so as to facilitate the formulation of a working document to be negotiated in Dakar.
- 1.iii The Meeting commended H. E. Ambassador Sene and the Troika PRs for the excellent preparatory work accomplished and agreed that the Preliminary Draft Joint Communiqué provided a good basis for future deliberations.
- 1.iv It was agreed that for purposes of maximum impact and clarity, the Final Communiqué of the Summit should be a concise and succinct document.

Item 3. Position Paper of the Group of Fifteen on the New World Order.

- 3.i It was agreed that this document which was published by H. E. President Abdou Diouf on 4 May 1992, would evolve in order to reflect the dynamic changes taking place in the world. The Chairman informed the Meeting that this document had been given wide circulation, including the United Nations and other international bodies, and had also been communicated to the Group of Seven prior to their last Summit Meeting in Munich in July this year. With regard to the latter, the Meeting was informed of a reply received from Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and addressed to President Abdou Diouf, copies of which had been circulated to all Foreign Ministers prior to the commencement of this meeting.

Item 4. Contribution status.

- 4.i At the request of the Chairman, the TSF made a brief presentation on the contributions received to date. Referring to the meeting of the Steering Committee held earlier, the Chairman informed the Meeting that, bearing in mind the difficulties faced by some member countries in this regard, a decision had been taken to recommend to the Summit that the sum of US\$200,000 each should constitute an

initial payment by all member countries, subsequent annual contributions being computed on the basis of objective economic criteria of individual member countries and the projected budget and work programme of the TSF.

- 4.ii H. E. the Foreign Minister of Jamaica stated that his country would be faced with a problem should it be required to pay the remainder of the initial amount of US\$200,000 in a single tranche and before the end of the present financial year.
- 4.iii A question was also raised as to whether contributions would or should also be utilized to meet the implementation costs of the special projects.
- 4.iv The Meeting agreed that, while the operating costs of the TSF should be maintained at a minimum level, it was also desirable for the scale of TSF operations to be enhanced rather than reduced. It was also suggested that, for purposes of cost rationalization, the TSF should avoid becoming top-heavy and any further recruitment should be guided by the need for lower-level technically qualified personnel.
- 4.v It was also agreed that, for purposes of operational viability and credibility, it may be prudent to give serious consideration to the re-location of the TSF in a member country. The attention of the Meeting was drawn to the fact that consultations were underway with the Swiss Government to ascertain the status of and prospects for continuity of the TSF in Geneva.
- 4.vi H. E. the Foreign Minister of Malaysia informed the Meeting that his country would be prepared to study the option of locating the TSF in Kuala Lumpur, with the possibility of it being accommodated in the building which also houses the Headquarters of SITTDEC.
- 4.vii The delegations of Nigeria, India and Senegal made similar offers with regard to the re-location of the TSF in their respective countries.
- 4.viii On the basis of the observations made, the TSF was requested to prepare the necessary documentation which would provide budgetary estimates for the future work of the TSF, a reasonable and mutually acceptable formula for the computation of annual contributions, and an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the TSF continuing in Geneva or being re-located elsewhere.
- 4.ix It was agreed that this and any other relevant documentation prepared by member countries could provide the basis for discussions, following which recommendations on all these issues would be made to the Summit for consideration and approval.
- 4.x H. E. the Foreign Minister of Nigeria, posing the question as to whether the commitment to the original objectives and purpose of the G-15 was on the wane, underlined the need for the pooling of resources and joint efforts towards meeting the developmental aspirations of all involved. It was suggested that the issue of present and future membership of the Group would also have to be assessed in this light.

- 4.xi H. E. the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of India, emphasizing his own country's full commitment to the Group and its work, re-iterated that the G-15 had a vital role to perform both in terms of South-South cooperation and in the promotion of an effective North-South dialogue.
- 4.xii The Chairman agreed that these observations were valuable and suggested that the issue of future membership of the G-15, which was first raised in Caracas last year, should perhaps be discussed, once more, at the Third Summit.

Item 5. Any other business

- 5.i Dates for the Summit and related meetings.
- 5.i. With due consideration to a request from India for alternative dates in order to enable H. E. Prime Minister Rao to attend the Summit, and with a view to facilitating the maximum participation at the highest level, the Meeting agreed on the following dates for the holding of the Third Summit and related meetings of the G-15 in Dakar, Senegal:
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| 16-17 November 1992 - | 14 th Meeting of Personal Representatives of Heads of State/Government; |
| 18 November 1992 - | 10 th Meeting of the Steering Committee; |
| 19 November 1992 - | 5 th Meeting of Foreign Minister; |
| 21-23 November 1992 - | Third Summit Meeting of Heads of State/Government. |
- 5.ii The delegation of Senegal requested that the Foreign Ministers of the Troika, at least, be presented in Dakar for the inauguration of the Business and Investment Forum which will commence on 16 November, 1992. The Chairman extended an invitation to all his colleagues to arrive in Dakar, Senegal, on 15 November, 1992.
- 5.iii The Chairman confirmed that H. E. President Abdou Diouf would meet with all G-15 Foreign Ministers and Personal Representatives of Heads of State/Government at 17:00 hours at the Park Centre room at the Waldorf Astoria.
