



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level of Developing Countries

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN
New Delhi, 26 March 1994

SUMMARY RECORDS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Meeting was Chaired by H. E. Mr. Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India. A list of delegates to the Meeting appears as **Annex A**.

The Chairman welcomed all delegates to the Meeting. Referring to the convening of this resumed Summit, the Chairman stated that this was an opportunity to examine the rationale of the Group and to decide what could be done for all members to benefit from it, both individually and collectively. In so doing, members of the Group should be guided by a sense of realism while retaining the required vision to contribute to a more peaceful, equitable and prosperous world. Referring to the specific mandates of the Group and the work carried out in the two areas of South-South Consultation and Cooperation and North-South engagement, the Chairman emphasized that, while its basic frame of reference remains relevant, the Group should now embark on more purposive programmes to enhance its intrinsic value as a key policy instrument. In this regard, the Chairman referred to the letter from H. E. Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister of India, of 15 February 1994 addressed to other G-15 Heads of State/Government.

The Group was operating in the context of a fast regionalizing world in which multilateralism has come under severe pressure. Highlighting the significant economic weight and vast resource endowments of the Group, the Chairman stated that the G-15 could contribute effectively to the expansion of trade among member countries and to the enhancement of common prosperity and global growth. Effective cooperation should be the touchstone to achieve these objectives and the Group's activities should be reoriented to create a vital interest in the Group for its members. Efforts should be made to also structure the Group in order to make it a constructive consultative partner with the G-7 in the pursuit of accelerated global growth and sustainable development. Every effort should also be made to equip the Group organisationally and substantively to realize this role.

The full text of the Chairman's address appears as **Annex B**.

The Draft Provisional Agenda for the Meeting was adopted as presented (**Annex C**).

- Item 1. Review of progress of on-going pre-Summit Meetings, including:**
- **Logistical arrangements.**
 - **Summit Agenda.**
 - **Draft Joint Communiqué.**

 - **Logistical arrangements.**

H. E. Mr. P. M. S. Malik, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of India, on behalf of the Chairman of the 18th Meeting of Personal Representatives provided details of the schedule of meetings and the logistical arrangements made for the Fourth Summit to be held from 28-30 March 1994.

- **Summit Agenda.**

The Draft Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Summit was accepted as presented (**Annex D**) and it was agreed that it would be transmitted to the Summit for final consideration and approval.

- **Draft Joint Communiqué.**

The Draft Joint Communiqué (Draft 4/Rev.5) was reviewed and appreciation was expressed for the work carried out in producing the text as presented. Following agreement on the incorporation of a few amendments requested by some member countries, the Meeting agreed that this document would now be submitted to the Summit for final consideration and approval.

- **Report of the Personal Representatives.**

H. E. Mr. K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary of India and Chairman of the Meeting of Personal Representatives, provided an overview of the conclusions reached on the principal issue of the future organization of the work and activities of the Group as follows:

- There was an unanimity of view on commitment to the G-15 and its twin mandates to promote South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue. With regard to the latter, it was agreed that topics of common interest should be identified through prior consultations.
- Intra-Group Cooperation and Consultation should be further enhanced. The Personal Representatives could constitute a Group that will explore ways and means of intensifying intra-Group cooperation in areas such as trade, technology and investment, taking into account the work of related G-15 projects.
- The Summit Meetings should be held annually at an agreed set period, i.e. the second half of November. The quorum may be kept at a level of about fifty per cent.
- It was imperative to retain the unique character of the G-15 as a Summit level Group. However, some flexibility may be allowed to Heads of State/Government who are unable to participate to send high level Special Envoys to present their views at Summit Meetings.
- The role of the Foreign Ministers should be strengthened for the development of more concise and focussed Summit Agendas and to carry out inter-Summit consultations on global issues of concern.

- Ministerial contacts at a bilateral level should be strengthened and intra-Group Ministerial meetings could also take place in the areas of Finance, Trade, Environment, etc. Such meetings should be limited to one per year and be well prepared in advance by meetings of experts.
- Resources should be made available in support of G-15 Projects such as SITTDEC and the Business and Investment Forum.
- The Troika PRs in Geneva were mandated to examine the restructuring of the Technical Support Facility taking into account the future work programme of the Group as decided at the Summit and to convey their recommendations to the next Meeting of Personal Representatives.
- Following the decision taken last December that the Buenos Aires Summit would be held in 1995, Argentina would be willing to propose a schedule of forthcoming meetings once confirmation of the next Summit dates was received.

The Summary Record of the Chairman of the 18th Meeting of Personal Representatives was made available to all participants.

- Item 2. Future organization of the work and activities of the G-15, in particular:**
- **The future course of the Group in a fast-changing world.**
 - **Frequency of Summits.**
 - **Agreed set period during the year for the convening of Summits.**
 - **The level and composition of the Summit quorum.**
 - **The role of the Council of Foreign Ministers.**
 - **A more focussed Agenda dealing with specific issues of immediate concern particularly in the North-South context.**

The outcome of the discussions at the Meeting of Personal Representatives on the above items was noted.

- **The future course of the Group in a fast-changing world.**

This was considered to be a crucial Agenda Item in determining the future of the Group. Following view emerged:

- The world was keenly watching the collective efforts of the Group and it is imperative that the Group succeeds, for, its success would in a large measure determine the credibility of all member countries.
- It was a young Group, needed time to mature and consolidate in terms of institution building, functions and programmes.
- The Group should proceed step by step, progressively increasing its role and presence and adapting to changes taking place in the world.
- The member countries were committed to the Group and its mission. Rapid developments within member countries, in their regions and globally, together with efforts member countries put into the Group determine its dynamics. In this regard, there was a need to be realistic whilst at the same time exert the utmost political will towards ensuring success of the Group.

- The Group's original mandates of South-South Consultation and Cooperation and North-South Dialogue continue to be relevant though different members attached greater emphasis on one or the other function. It was felt that overriding importance should not be given to one function over the other.
- South-South Cooperation needed to be given new vitality both through effective implementation of G-15 cooperative projects, and the forging of new mechanisms to facilitate significantly enhanced levels of intra G-15 trade, technology transfer and investment. These mechanisms should interface with related G-15 projects such as SITTDEC and Business forum.
- Its role as a Group of countries of the South that could respond to the G-7 in a coherent, quick and effective manner should be developed further, focussing on specific global issues of common concern among G-15 countries. In this regard, the initiatives of the present and the former Chairmen of the Group over the two past years were noted with appreciation, and its continuance urged. Other initiatives for revival of the North-South dialogue including in the context of the UNGA resolution adopted last year could also be pursued.
- In order to increase the effectiveness of the Group, the Meeting endorsed the recommendation for an enhanced inter-Summit process of consultation and coordination at Ministerial and other levels.
- The technical capabilities of the Technical Support Facility should be strengthened taking into account the limited financial resources available.
- **Frequency of Summits.**

The Meeting agreed that the unique Summit level character of the Group should be preserved. Support was expressed for maintaining the annual nature of Summits so as not to lose its comparative advantages, cohesion and momentum, including its interaction with the G-7. Some, however, indicated flexibility regarding the frequency of the Summits.

- **Agreed set period during the year for the convening of Summits.**

There was a general consensus expressed with regard to the convening of the G-15 Summits in the second half of November.

- **The level and composition of the Summit quorum.**

The Meeting was informed that the resumed Fourth Summit was being held under extraordinary circumstances and as such it had been agreed at a Meeting of the Personal Representatives in March 1994 at Geneva that the strict rule of quorum would not apply to this Summit. Furthermore it was agreed that the Heads of State/Government who are unable to participate could send high level Special Envoys to convey their views at the Summit Meeting.

The Meeting recognized that pressing and unpredictable domestic concerns may make it difficult at times for the Heads of State/Government to attend the Summits. While supporting the need for a degree of flexibility in terms of the numbers required for the quorum, it was emphasized that this should not reduce the commitment of Heads of State/Government to attend Summit Meetings. A view was expressed that leaders of member countries should make every attempt to construct their schedules in a way so

that priority could be placed on attending the G-15 Summit. While there was a general agreement on the recommendation to allow Special Envoys of non-participating Heads of State/Government to attend future Summits, views were expressed that such participation should be at a very high level (e.g. Vice-Presidents, Deputy Prime Ministers) and should be restrictive, e.g. such Envoys would not be allowed to participate in the Retreat and formal Sessions. The Meeting agreed that a final decision on the quorum and level of participation at the future Summits would be taken by the Heads of State/Government attending the Fourth Summit in New Delhi.

- **The role of the Council of Foreign Ministers.**

The Meeting endorsed the recommendations made by the Personal Representatives with regard to the above.

- **A more focussed Agenda.**

Views were expressed that future Summit Agendas should be shorter thematic and more focussed. However, it was also felt that a too focussed and structured Agenda should not in any way inhibit free and spontaneous exchange of views on any issue that the individual Heads of State/Government may want to raise. A few items were suggested for the future Summit Agendas i.e. Environment and Development, the post-Uruguay Round trading system, Employment, the Agenda for Development, the Restructuring of the UN, etc.

The Meeting thanked the Chairman for the successful conclusion of the meeting.
