



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

**XIV SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GROUP OF FIFTEEN  
17 May 2010, Tehran**

**Joint Communiqué**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen, meeting in Tehran on 17 May 2010 for our Fourteenth Summit, a year after the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Group, in the spirit of mutual cooperation, consultations and solidarity, undertook a critical appraisal of the global economic governance including the financial and economic crisis and other issues of mutual concern.
2. Our meeting is opportune as the world has been confronted with the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression that has spread throughout the global economy, causing severe social, economic and political impacts. We are deeply concerned with its adverse impact on development. The crisis, which had its origins in major financial centres in the developed world, has not only highlighted long-standing systemic fragilities and imbalances, but has also led to an intensification of efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system and architecture. Our challenge is to ensure that actions and responses to the crisis are commensurate with its scale, depth and urgency, adequately financed, promptly implemented and appropriately coordinated internationally.
3. We observe with deep concern, the adverse impact of the crisis, which has been more than a cyclical reality but a systemic and structural crisis, resulting in increasing food insecurity, volatile prices in energy and commodities, sharp contraction in developing countries exports, negative private capital flows, trade finance crunch, unemployment, declining remittances and a loss of confidence in the international economic system, thus endangering the achievement of national development objectives of developing countries, as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs.
4. The drivers of the financial and economic crisis were complex and multifaceted. We recognize that many of the main causes of the crisis are linked to systemic fragilities and imbalances that contributed to the inadequate functioning of the global economy. Major underlying factors in the recent situation included inconsistent and insufficiently coordinated macroeconomic policies and inadequate structural reforms, which led to unsustainable global macroeconomic outcomes. These factors were made acute by major failures in financial regulation, supervision and monitoring of the financial sector and inadequate surveillance and early warning. These regulatory failures, compounded by over-reliance on market self regulation, overall lack of transparency, financial integrity and irresponsible behavior, have led to excessive risk taking, unsustainable high asset prices, irresponsible leveraging and high levels of consumption fueled by easy credit and inflated asset prices. Financial

regulators, policy makers and institutions failed to appreciate the full measure of risks in the financial system or address the extent of the growing economic vulnerabilities and their cross border linkages. Insufficient emphasis on equitable human development has contributed to significant inequalities among countries and peoples. Other weaknesses of a systemic nature also contributed to the recent crisis, which has demonstrated the need for more effective government involvement to ensure an appropriate balance between the market and public interest.

5. In this regard, we call for collective national and international actions to expand the scope of financial regulation and supervision and making it more effective, and transparent, with respect to all major financial centres, including the newly established Financial Stability Board, institutions and actors. We also affirm the right of developing countries to exercise more policy space in coping with the crisis.

6. We note that the advent of the global financial and economic crisis has vindicated our repeated calls for a comprehensive restructuring of the international financial architecture. We share the view on the need to take into account lessons learnt from the recent financial crisis in order to increase the resilience of the world's economy. We call for the intensification of efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system and its architecture, including an unbiased and effective IMF surveillance of major financial centres, international capital flows and financial markets. To this end, we take note of the improvement of early warning systems by the relevant international institutions aiming at providing timely alerts on macroeconomic and financial risks and the responses needed to contain them.

7. We emphasize that the recent crisis provides fresh impetus for the reform and modernization of the Bretton Woods Institutions, in order to increase the credibility and accountability of these institutions on the basis of a fair and equitable representation of developing countries. These reforms must reflect current realities and should enhance the perspective, voice and participation of dynamic emerging markets and developing countries, including the poorest. We therefore call for the completion of the IMF quota review by November 2010 and take note of the agreement on the second phase of voice and representation reform in the World Bank Group.

8. We call on the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWI), in their efforts to support developing countries, to take into account the specific conditions and needs of these countries, as well as the structural constraints they face, while recognizing the importance of international collective action and solidarity which had been among the institutions' key founding principles. Nevertheless, we recognize that the BWI should not be seen as the unique source of financing for the developing world. In that sense, we encourage the promotion of alternative, innovative, democratic and development oriented financial institutions and frameworks in the South, in particular at regional and sub-regional levels, in full respect of sovereignty, asymmetries and legal equality among states.

9. We welcome the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development and urge all UN member countries to support the full implementation of its follow-up actions. In this context, we agree on the importance of strengthening the role of the United Nations Development System in responding to the economic crisis and its impact on development.

10. Recognizing the relevance of the North-South Dialogue in response to the global economic crisis, we note the various commitments made at the G-20 Summits to put in place a Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, including the commitments to replenish the finances of international financial institutions for concessional lending to countries affected by the crisis, to undertake a concerted fiscal and monetary stimulus to restore growth and employment and also to mobilize US\$20 billion over the next three years for food security in developing countries. We stress the need for the early and full implementation of these commitments in order to expedite a fair and sustainable recovery for all countries, and in particular, the developing countries affected by the economic crisis.

11. We acknowledge that the recent financial crisis, with its long-term implications on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for funding their development strategies, has underlined the importance of the Monterrey Consensus and its follow-up. In the current economic environment, in which developing countries, particularly the LDCs, are facing a severe tightening of capital resources, we urge donor countries to undertake all necessary measures for the timely implementation of their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance (ODA) commitments and targets made at major international fora. We underline that the fulfillment of all long-standing ODA commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and to reach the level of at least 0.5 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010, in order to push forward the international development agenda and to assist developing countries, in accordance with their national strategies, to effectively respond to the crisis.

12. We express concern that the recent financial crisis has the potential to undo the gains made in recent years in relation to the external debt sustainability of developing countries. While recognizing that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) have helped beneficiary countries to free resources for poverty relief and economic development programmes, we are of the view that the recent global financial and economic crisis calls for enacting appropriate fiscal measures to mitigate its impact or engage in development financing through, *inter alia*, additional debt relief measures for highly indebted developing countries. We therefore welcome the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development that calls for continued flexibility with regard to the eligibility criteria for debt relief under the HIPC and MDRI. We also stress that debt relief or temporary debt moratorium programmes should not be accompanied by disproportionate conditionality and should fully respond to realities, priorities and needs of recipient countries.

13. We note with concern that the recent global financial turmoil has adversely impacted traditional sources of external finance for developing countries such as FDI, export revenues and private portfolio capital flows. In this era of global credit crunch, we encourage the examination of innovative sources of development finance, both short-term and long-term, in particular for LDCs, which have been disproportionately affected by the decreased global liquidity. We therefore welcome the on-going initiatives such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization, the India-Brazil-South Africa Fund, the Banco del ALBA, the Chiang Mai Initiative, the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation and support to African countries, and the PetroCaribe Initiative, among others. We acknowledge that these funds should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of finance, and should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and not unduly burden them. We call on the international community to consider strengthening current initiatives and explore new

proposals, while recognizing their voluntary and complementary nature. We also urge rating institutions to factor in recent developments in developing countries and the investment opportunities available, when rating evaluations are carried out.

14. We underscore that migrant workers bring economic benefits to countries of origin and destination and urge all countries to design appropriate policies that ensure regular movement of migrant workers and to facilitate the transfer of their remittances to countries of origin, as well as ensure the protection of their rights and dignity in the host country. We also call for the redoubling of efforts at the multilateral level on the subject by expediting commitment to a meaningful outcome in the current services trade negotiations under Mode 4 in the WTO. We also welcome the organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in November 2010, as an opportunity to discuss migration issues.

15. We express our deep concern on the reality that growth in many developing countries continues to fall below the level that is required for significant progress towards the attainment of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We note in this regard that more than halfway to the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, major advances to combat poverty and hunger have begun to slow down or even reverse as a result of the global economic and food crises. We note in particular the structural vulnerabilities of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the LDCs, which have been profoundly affected by the global economic crisis, and recognize the need for greater, more sustained, assistance to these countries towards the achievement of their MDGs.

16. We express concern on the adverse impact of the economic crisis on employment, with millions losing their jobs, which constitutes a major setback to the efforts of developing countries to achieve the MDGs, particularly the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. We however note with satisfaction the action taken by the ILO in this regard, and in particular the “Global Jobs Pact” adopted at the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference aimed at promoting job-intensive recovery from the present crisis, drawing on its decent work agenda. We will collaborate with all social partners in the ILO tripartite framework to achieve this objective and put employment and social protection at the heart of recovery policies.

17. We acknowledge that the recent economic crisis has had significant adverse effects on agriculture and food security in developing countries. We therefore welcome the renewed commitments undertaken by world leaders to halve the number of under-nourished people in the world by 2015, as contained in the MDGs and call for the introduction of a fresh massive internationally coordinated financial stimulus package, to foster rural development and capacity-building with a view to attain the IADGs including the MDGs. To this end, we reiterate our commitment to strengthen our cooperation to support the enhancement of national food security programmes of our member countries.

18. We acknowledge that the economic downturn has the potential to compel governments to cut back on social spending, which would cause a long-lasting adverse impact on human development and the realization of the IADGs, in particular the MDGs. In light of this, we recognize the need to sustain public spending in the social sector, such as education, health, environment and sanitation, job creation, investment in social infrastructure and food security programmes.

19. We encourage the international community, including the developed world, to renew its commitments for international aid, including ODA commitments, particularly those directed towards the social sectors to overcome the impact of the global crisis affecting developing countries.

20. We have consistently affirmed that international trade is one of the key engines for economic growth and poverty alleviation and that a well-functioning, universal, rules-based, open, fair, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system could benefit countries at all stages of economic development. We recall in this regard, that all WTO members subscribed to the decision taken at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting held in Doha in 2001 to place development at the heart of the WTO's work programme. We therefore express our unreserved disappointment that several years later, the Doha Round of trade negotiations has not yet delivered the expected development-oriented outcome. We stress the need to re-engage at the political level in order to push the Doha Development Agenda forward and to strengthen the development dimension of the multilateral trading system.

21. While emphasizing the need for a timely and successful conclusion of the present round of trade negotiations, it is imperative to reiterate that the speed and sequence of trade liberalization depends on the specific trade, financial and development circumstances of each country. Achieving a balanced outcome in all areas under the Doha Round negotiations, aimed at addressing development concerns of developing countries, in particular the LDCs, is imperative. In this context, we stress the relevance of paragraph 24 of the Hong Kong Declaration, which calls for a comparably high level of ambition in market access for agriculture and NAMA. It is also a priority to strengthen special and differential treatment provisions, in a way that developing countries could also respond and better face the adverse impacts of economic and financial crises.

22. In light of the trade-related impacts of the recent global financial and economic crises, we take note of the holding of the long overdue 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO on 30 November - 2 December 2009 in Geneva, under the general theme of "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment".

23. We also reiterate the need for expediting the accession of developing countries to the WTO, on a legal, technical and non-political basis. Any undue delay in the process of accession negotiations to the WTO may negatively affect the appropriate integration of these countries into the international trading system. In this regard, we wish to express our firm support for developing countries, especially G-15 members, currently in the process of accession and we do not accept the imposition on these countries as an accession prerequisite, of any commitments that are incompatible with their special development needs and of concessions that go over and beyond those agreed by and among existing WTO members.

24. We recognize the important role of Aid for Trade as a positive initiative for improving trade competitiveness and better integration of developing countries, and in particular LDCs, into the international trading system. We recall the pledges of developed countries and, in particular, the donor countries in this respect and emphasize the need for additional funds, recipient country ownership, predictability and their fulfillment in a timely manner. We recognize also that South-South cooperation in trade-related assistance has recently become a very important complementary means for the establishment of partnerships among developing countries.

25. Acknowledging the recent global economic downturn, we call on all WTO members, bearing in mind their commitments under the existing agreements, to keep trade open and resist the temptation to adopt protectionist and trade distortive measures, like those implemented by developed countries.

26. We reiterate our continuing support for UNCTAD as the focal point within the UN for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues. We commend the role of UNCTAD in supporting developing economies, in particular LDCs, to optimize the opportunities of globalization and address its challenges through the UNCTAD's pillars of consensus building, policy analysis, research, capacity building and technical cooperation assistance. We recognize that in the present circumstances, when an economic crisis emanating from the developed world has serious impact and ramifications for the developing world, the contribution of UNCTAD in promoting policy analysis and solutions through its traditional role of consensus building is more relevant than ever. Our countries therefore reaffirm their commitment to the far-reaching decisions taken at UNCTAD XII held in Accra, Ghana, on 20-25 April 2008 and urge the speedy and full implementation of the Accord. We emphasize the relevant contribution of UNCTAD to developing countries during the 46 years of its existence.

27. We reiterate our commitment to the international efforts to address climate change on the basis of the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular equity and the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. While underlining the Convention's fundamental role, we stress the importance of providing sufficient financing and also transfer of know-how and technology on concessionary and preferential terms to developing countries to combat the effects of climate change and promote sustainable development. We call upon developed countries to demonstrate the necessary political will and agree to predictable arrangements for climate-financing, additional to ODA and consistent with the provisions of the UNFCCC, including consideration of existing proposals in this regard at the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of Parties in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010.

28. We also reaffirm our pledge to achieving the internationally agreed development goals on sustainable development including water and sanitation, in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the recommendations of the Millennium Summit. In this context we welcome the 2012 Earth Summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro as an opportunity to discuss issues related to sustainable development.

29. We caution that the global economic crisis should not impede the required global response to climate change and environmental degradation. While stressing the main principle of common but differentiated responsibility, we call on developed countries to ensure that the response to the crisis will not be at the expense of addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development. We maintain that developed countries should strive to implement, in addition to the ongoing efforts directed at climate change mitigation and adaptation, new major initiatives aimed at securing sustainable development. The response to the climate change should be achieved in a way to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. We also stress the critical importance of urgently addressing the existential threat posed by the effects of climate change to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and its adverse impact on their sustainable development, as well as addressing the needs of the most vulnerable developing countries

in this regard. We also emphasize the need for a breakthrough in COP16 to be held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010 and call on every nation to endeavour to become a part of the solution, stressing the main principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, by reaching an agreed outcome on climate change that is fair, equitable, effective and inclusive in accordance with the agreements reached by the conferences of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Meetings of Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, including the Bali Road Map and the Bali Plan of Action. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the Mexican Government towards a comprehensive, inclusive and effective outcome of COP16-MOP6 to be held by the end of 2010.

30. We recall that at our 13<sup>th</sup> Summit in Havana in 2006, we had urged the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as a UN Agency, to include in all its programmes and activities the development dimension to promote, *inter alia*, access to knowledge for all, pro-development norm-setting activities including full consideration of the potential social and economic costs of upward harmonization of laws on Intellectual Property protection, the establishment of development-friendly principles and guidelines for the provision of technical assistance and the adoption of measures to enhance the transfer and dissemination of technology. We therefore note with satisfaction, the Development Agenda adopted by WIPO in October 2007 that contains far-reaching recommendations to enhance the development dimensions of the organization's activities. We call for the creation of necessary institutional and other mechanisms in WIPO, as appropriate, to ensure a speedy, transparent and substantive implementation of these recommendations in order to reach and maintain the balance between public interest and those of right holders. We believe that WIPO should undertake more efforts to include in the implementation of its mandate, those principles agreed in the Millennium Declaration, such as, freedom, solidarity, tolerance, respect to nature and common responsibility.

31. We also stress the need for ensuring effective commitment from developed countries to promote transfer of and access to technology, knowledge and information, as well as flexibilities for developing countries, *inter alia*, through promoting the inclusion of flexibilities when adopting intellectual property international legal frameworks. We believe that there is a need to develop multilateral actionable solutions, guidelines and instruments in particular, for the transfer of technology to developing countries.

32. We encourage all states to apply measures and procedures for enforcing Intellectual Property Right (IPR) in a manner as to avoid the creation of barriers to the legitimate trade of medicines and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures.

33. We emphasize the urgent need for an equitable international system of rules governing intellectual property, allowing among others, the prevention of the misappropriation of the genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions providing for the international protection of indigenous knowledge systems, on the basis of equitable and mutual benefit sharing. We call upon WIPO to intensify efforts in this regard and we look forward to the development of international legal instrument or instruments as per the decision of the WIPO General Assembly at its Thirty Eighth Session in 2009. We call upon the Inter-governmental Committee of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC-GRTKF) to proceed on its text-based negotiations with a view for the WIPO General Assembly to decide in 2011 on convening a diplomatic conference leading to the possible adoption of international legal instrument or instruments for the effective protection of GRTKF, without prejudice to negotiations to be carried out in other fora.

34. We recognize the importance of energy security and the efficient use of energy for a long-term development strategy in developing countries. In this regard, we reiterate the need to deepen intra-G-15 cooperation to expand and develop different sources of traditional as well as non-conventional energy.

35. While recognizing the need for developing countries to have access to affordable forms of energy, we stress the importance of promoting cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation through institutional capacity building and increasing private sector involvement, including enhancing public awareness as well as expanding markets for energy-efficient products. We recognize the need for a balanced national energy policy that simultaneously promotes protection of the environment, the sustainability of natural resources and the high quality of life of citizens.

36. We underline the basic and inalienable rights of the Group's member countries to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material, know-how and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses and production of all kinds of non-renewable and renewable energy, *inter alia*, biomass, hydro, tidal, wind and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only, consistent with their respective international obligations and commitments.

37. We affirm that sound public health is a fundamental requirement for socio-economic progress and stability, and a central plank of the Millennium Development Goals. While acknowledging that the progress made in recent years in improving global health has been mixed, we need to renew efforts for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other neglected tropical diseases. In this regard, we commend the work of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the results it has achieved in coordinating a more effective global response to HIV/AIDS. Noting the level of resources mobilized thus far, we also commend the efforts of the Global Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and other regional and bilateral initiatives as well as the positive contributions of some innovative financing mechanisms such as the international drug purchase facility (UNITAID). We urge that the productive multilateral, regional and bilateral efforts in combating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other neglected tropical diseases should be sustained, as additional resources and actions are still needed to achieve the full impact of scaled-up prevention and treatment programmes.

38. In light of the priority we attach to public health as a *sine qua non* for the general welfare of our populations and overall social and economic development, we call for a coordinated international action for the mobilization of resources to assist developing countries set up necessary infrastructure for systematic and timely preparedness, testing and containment in case of the future spread of the A (H1N1) influenza virus, as well as the expeditious development, stockpiling and supply of antiviral drugs and vaccines to countries in need, especially in developing countries. We call for equitable, transparent, accessible and sustainable efforts in the supply of antiviral drugs and vaccines to the populations of the countries in need. We welcome the efforts of governments that are struggling to maintain or even increase their national level of expenditure in the light of the economic situation to guarantee access of the population to retroviral drugs and vaccines. We call for early conclusion of the work of the open-ended Working Group on a multilateral framework for the sharing of H5N1 and other influenza viruses with human pandemic potential and a fair and equitable sharing of benefits at the World Health Organization (WHO).



39. We underline the need for identifying and reviewing the major lessons learnt from the global response to the Influenza A (H1N1) to strengthen the preparedness and response to potential future influenza pandemics and other public health emergencies, in view of the questions surrounding the management of the emergency relating to the recent H1N1 pandemic, including its degree and economic consequences.

40. We request the incoming Chairman of the Group to explore further avenues for promoting networking and practical cooperation among officials and agencies of member countries. Taking into account the Suggested Guidelines for the Selection and Implementation of G-15 Cooperation Projects and lessons learnt, we encourage member countries to propose new initiatives for joint cooperative projects as well as the possibility of re-packaging previous project activities that could have potential for beneficial impact, sustainability and wide acceptance among member countries of the Group.

41. We recall the G-15 Africa Cooperation Fund initiative launched at the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit on 14 September 2006 in Havana, and we renew the mandate to the Personal Representatives to continue exploring the modalities for its implementation taking into consideration the suggestions made by our Ministers of Foreign Affairs during their 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in New York on 26 September 2008.

42. In keeping with our commitment to strengthening South-South Cooperation and the exploitation of its full potential, we undertake to explore and take further actions to enable our countries and other developing countries to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and the difficulties brought about by the recent global financial and economic crisis. In light of the destabilizing factors inherent in the prevailing global economy, we underscore the relevance of regional integration and mechanisms among developing countries within the overarching framework of South-South cooperation. Such South-South cooperation should be guided by the principles of sovereignty, mutual respect, common interests, complementarities, cooperation and integration among peoples.

43. Taking into account the important role played by trade in further advancing South-South Cooperation, we commit to collaborating with other developing countries to explore further measures and avenues, for promoting joint initiatives and activities in the areas of trade, for the mutual benefit of all developing countries. In this regard, the successful conclusion of the Sao Paulo Round of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), will be a significant contribution to South-South trade. To this end, while reaffirming our full commitment to the undertakings and road map that emerged from the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Summit held in Doha in June 2005, we express our readiness to participate proactively in, and contribute effectively to the success of the 3<sup>rd</sup> South Summit to be held in Africa in 2010.

44. We agree on the need to facilitate further intra-G-15 cooperation in the areas of trade and investment promotion as well as technology transfers by adopting and improving mechanisms of cooperation among G-15 member countries. To this end, we note with encouragement the scaling up of bilateral agreements and engagements between an increasing number of G-15 member countries for cooperation and joint ventures in the areas of trade, investment, agriculture, energy, human capital development and technology transfer. We encourage the active participation of the private sector in these initiatives and commend the work undertaken by the G-15 Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Services to strengthen networking to enable us to fully exploit the immense potentials and investment opportunities existing in G-15 member countries.

45. We underline the high importance of enhancing technical cooperation between member countries of the Group, through different mechanisms and fora that facilitate the sharing of experiences, skills, expertise and technology in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. We acknowledge in this regard the highly valuable opportunity provided for networking, information sharing and exchange of experiences between officials of G-15 member countries at the High Level Meeting on Water Resources Management and Rural and Agricultural Development held in Tehran, from 2 - 4 September 2007 and commend the Government of Egypt for offering institutional capacity building on agriculture & rural development related issues to G-15 officials under the Human Resource Training Programme.

46. We acknowledge with satisfaction the decision taken by the Heads of State and Government of the Latin-American and Caribbean region at the "Unity Summit", Cancun, Mexico, February 2010, to establish the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States. We express our support to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the organization of the forthcoming Latin- American and Caribbean Summit of Integration and Development (CALC), which, by decision taken in Cancun, will be held in Venezuela on 5 July 2011, coinciding with the commemoration of the two hundred years of the Venezuelan declaration of independence. In this regard, we wish that the forthcoming Latin-American and Caribbean of Integration and Development (CALC), to be held in 2011 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Rio Group Summit to be held in Chile in 2012, will further contribute to consolidate the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States.

47. We wish to promote international dialogue and commit ourselves to pursuing our efforts to strengthen exchanges with our development partners, including the G-8, in order to foster the harmonious growth of international development cooperation in all its facets.

48. We remain convinced that multilateralism, based on the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, as well as the respect for and adherence to international law is essential for the preservation and promotion of international peace and security as well as the promotion of international cooperation and development.

49. We express grave concern on adopting or implementing extra-territorial and unilateral economic sanctions, coercive economic measures or laws against developing countries, as well as using international economic and financial system as political instrument to impose such sanctions, measures or laws. Such actions constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among states. We condemn such actions, and call for repealing all economic and financial sanctions, measures and restrictions. We also urge states applying these sanctions, measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

50. We reaffirm that development is a human right whose realization must remain unhindered by selectivity in development assistance as practiced by some developed countries.

51. We express deep concern about the extensive physical, economic and social devastation being caused in the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem as a result of Israeli occupation and settlements, of the partition wall, and of the resulting violation of the economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinians, including the right to work, to health, to education, to property and to an

adequate standard of living, and about checkpoints isolating East Jerusalem from the West Bank, the massive displacement of Palestinians from their homes undermining the economic, social and cultural fabric of their society as well as about the imposition of a life-threatening blockade on the civilian population of Gaza. We also express concern on the dire economic and social situation of the population in Occupied Syrian Golan. We support efforts to create a conducive environment to building a sovereign and viable Palestinian State.

52. We therefore call for full implementation of ECOSOC resolution 2009/34 on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan as well as of the relevant resolution of General Assembly 64/125 on the Assistance to the Palestinian people and the relevant HRC resolutions.

53. We undertake to sustain our consultations on key issues on the global agenda, which are of interest to our member countries and the larger community of developing countries.

54. We reiterate that our XIV Summit takes place at a crucial juncture for our member countries in their collective quest to strengthen a compact and effective framework of consultation and collaboration for South-South cooperation, interdependence and solidarity. We undertake to review our approaches and mechanisms of cooperation with a view to attaining our common cause and empowering our member countries to play a more dynamic and significant international role. In addition, we emphasize that Triangular Cooperation contributes to and complements South-South cooperation, and thus we call for fostering of schemes in this context.

55. We invite the incoming Chairman of the Group to establish a high-level task force consisting of Senior Officials/Personal Representatives to undertake a thorough and fair assessment on the progress, financial situation and prospects of the Group and provide action-oriented recommendations on the revitalization of the Group to be reported to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their meeting on the margin of the forthcoming 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. In carrying out its tasks, the high-level task force could commission an independent assessment of the Group to an outside institution.

56. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its exemplary stewardship of the affairs of the Group and for the excellent organization of this Summit.

57. We reiterate our appreciation for the generous offer by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to assume the Chairmanship of our Group and its commitment to host the Fifteenth Summit of the Group of Fifteen in 2012.

\*\*\*\*\*