

# Information Bulletin

Quarterly Publication

Volume 2, Issue 4; (October – November 2014)

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

Technical Support Facility, Group of Fifteen – The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

## G-15-South Centre holds Joint Consultation on Post-2015 Development Agenda



A joint consultation organized by the South Centre and the Group of Fifteen (G-15) on 'The state of play of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and potential opportunities for the Global South', was held at the South Centre in Geneva on 24 November 2014. The event took place in pursuance of the mandate given by the G-15 Foreign Ministers in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA on 26 September 2014, which underscored the importance for G-15 to play a prominent role in shaping the international Development Agenda through South-South coordination during the Post-2015 period.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and Chairman of the Personal Representatives of G-15, co-chaired the event, along with Dr. Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre. Dr. Mariama Williams, Senior Programme Officer, Global Governance for Development Programme;



© Photo: G-15. Joint meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda

Development; and Mr. Vicente Paolo B. Yu III, Head of Administration and Coordinator, Global Governance for Development Programme delivered presentations on the topic. Ambassador Amr Ahmed Ramadan, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN in Geneva and delegates from other G-15 countries participated in the discussion.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and Chairman of the Personal Representatives of G-15, co-chaired the event, along with Dr. Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre. Dr. Mariama Williams, Senior Programme Officer, Global Governance for Development Programme; Dr. Montes Manuel, Senior Advisor, Finance and Development; and Mr. Vicente Paolo B. Yu III, Head of Administration and Coordinator, Global Governance for Development Programme delivered presentations on the topic. Ambassador Amr Ahmed Ramadan, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN in Geneva and delegates from other G-15 countries participated in the discussion.

### GROUP OF FIFTEEN



## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4



© Photo: G-15. Joint meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda

Initiating the discussion Ambassador Aryasinha said both the South Centre and G-15 share a commitment to South-South solidarity and in promoting South-South and North-South cooperation. He recalled that during a preliminary briefing at the South Centre in July 2013, well ahead of many of the processes that sought to chart the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he had highlighted the need for Developing countries to engage more actively and collectively in framing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to prevent it from being imposed on them as a *fait accompli*.

Sixteen months later, he said this need was even more pronounced as countries moved into its final lap. He said the Global South must continue to reflect on 'how' development is done, not just 'what' is done in implementing the SDGs. He noted that G-15 believes all countries must adhere to the criteria agreed upon in Rio+20, namely that the operationalization of the SDGs must be based on the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility', and should not place additional restrictions or burdens on Developing countries. He also stressed that true development requires a genuine global partnership and called on Developed countries to honour their international commitments, especially those related to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity. Ambassador Aryasinha said the consultation would help both parties to consider various options on the way forward and to prepare possible actionable recommendations to improve the Post-2015 Development Agenda process, which could be shared with G-15 capitals, as well as with like-minded countries who will be negotiating the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Dr. Khor detailed the state of play of the Development Agenda at the New York level. He said although there was much focus on New York, the 'real development agenda' was being negotiated in Geneva - within UNCTAD, WTO, WHO, ILO, WIPO and other institutions, given that the agreements they negotiate are legally enforced. Dr. Khor said South-South cooperation is becoming even more important today, and called on the G-15 to "reclaim its initial central role" by providing a non-UN platform where South-South dialogue can expand. He recalled that the G-15 was historically created as a counter Group to the G-7 to protest the unilateral decisions taken by developed countries and imposed on the rest of the globe. He said as the Development Agenda is being negotiated, the G-15 should play a leading role. However, Dr. Khor stressed that North-South cooperation must continue, as Western countries bore a postcolonial responsibility to developing countries.

During the discussion, the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets were discussed and it was noted that some countries have reached remarkable strides to keep pace with achieving the goals of the MDGs. It was emphasized that developing countries should maintain the momentum in pursuit of these goals, even as they approach a new phase of the Developing Agenda. Dr. Williams observed that the significant progress attained was however being jeopardized as a result of the debt crisis and the after effects of the financial crisis, as well as adaptation to climate change. Concern was raised with regards to the possibility that the 17 identified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) determined in July 2014, following year-long negotiations in the Open Working Group, was sought to be re-opened for negotiation by the Developed countries. It was felt that re-opening the SDGs text may risk weakening elements in it that were in favour of many developing countries.

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4

The briefing also highlighted the challenges of global carbon emissions and noted that the current industrialization model of developing countries is unfit to ensure the required transition to a low carbon development model imposed by the current SDGs. Climate negotiations which are expected to take place in December 2014 in Peru and in November 2015 in Paris, will attempt to address challenges concerning the national contribution to such goals. However, Dr. Khor stressed that SDGs are much more than a set of goals; they are addressing fundamental challenges for the developing world. He further added that 'common but differentiated responsibilities' must apply to carbon emissions, as developed countries account for much of the environmental degradation that has taken place in the planet, and hence insisted that North-South cooperation must be sustained in the development process.

It was noted that migration, though an important element of development, is currently not discussed at high level. Mr. Yu expressed that developed countries have declined to address the issue of migration so as to not engage on the issue of visas or quotas. The International Labour Organization (ILO) was continuing to request the infusion of many "decent work" ideas into the targets and goals of the Post-2015 Development Agenda through the UN task team. The issue of remittances was also addressed and it was noted that one of the goals is to reduce the cost of remittances to 3%, and eliminate remittances corridors which represent more than 5%, by 2030. Observing that remittances received in developing countries are presently higher than ODA, G-15 delegates strongly opposed the suggestions by developed countries to include these figures when re-defining Aid.

As the world prepared for the Financing for Development (FfD) Conference, delegates also expressed concern about the newly introduced idea of "global partnership" - a term recently coined to include unaccountable entities,



© Photo: G-15. Dr. Martin Khor (left) and Ambassador Aryasinha (right)

such as the private sector and civil society that represent their independent interests. It was noted that the UN is a multilateral organization, whose initial mission is to provide a venue for cooperation and collaboration to accountable state actors that bear responsibilities to the governments they represent. The level of legitimacy of non-state entities in this context was questioned.

An 'outcome document' on the discussion is to be produced jointly by the South Centre and the G-15, in order to inform country delegations and the public of the issues of concern and contribute to the on-going debate.

### New Arrival

#### **Ambassador Taonga Mushayavanhu joins the G-15 Family as the new Personal Representative of Zimbabwe**

The Group of Fifteen warmly welcomes Ambassador Taonga Mushayavanhu, the new Personal Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

On 7 November 2014 Taonga Mushayavanhu, the new Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations Office at Geneva, presented his credentials to Michael Møller, the Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4



© Photo: UNOG. H.E. Ambassador Taonga Mushayavanhu (left) New Personal Representative of Zimbabwe

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Mr. Mushayavanhu had been serving as Director for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe since February 2014. He was Director for Africa, Asia and the Pacific at the Ministry from February 2011 to January 2014. He served as Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Zimbabwe in Beijing, China from May 2006 to January 2011.

A career diplomat, Mr. Mushayavanhu joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987 as an administrative officer and held a variety of posts both in Zimbabwe and abroad, including being posted at the Embassy of Zimbabwe in London,

United Kingdom from 1994 to 2000, first as a First Secretary and then as a Counsellor.

Mr. Mushayavanhu was born on 2 July 1963. He has a Bachelor of Arts in economic history from the University of Zimbabwe (1986); an M.A. in economic history from the University of Zimbabwe (1989); a postgraduate diploma in diplomacy and international studies from the University of Nairobi (1991); and a postgraduate diploma in management from the University of London (1998).

Source: [UNOG](#)

## G-15 Joint Statement at IOM

### G-15 urged for a further political and public recognition of the positive contribution of migration to development

On 26 November 2014, during the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Geneva, Ms. Samantha Jayasuriya, Chargé d'Affaires of the Sri Lanka Mission in Geneva delivered the Group of Fifteen's (G-15) Joint Statement on behalf of Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and Chairman of the Personal Representatives of G-15. In the statement, she drew attention to the positive impact of international migration flows in the development of countries of origin, transit and destination. In addition, she highlighted international migration should be incorporated to the global economic discourse and development paradigm, given its cross-cutting and multidimensional reality involving all areas of human rights, labor, health, economy and education.



© Photo: G-15. Ms. Samantha Jayasuriya, Chargé d'Affaires of the Sri Lanka Mission in Geneva delivering G-15 Statement during the 105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of IOM

Ms. Samantha Jayasuriya said “international migration should be approached in a holistic and comprehensive manner, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, based simultaneously on the defense of the human rights of migrants and on the developmental paradigm of migration that is sensitive to the national circumstances of

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4

countries of origin, transit and destination, and one that seeks to maximize the mutually beneficial nature of international migration.” She added: “the multi-disciplinary nature of migration should lead to the establishment of a worldwide strategy to look into innovative multilateral cooperation with a view to achieving sustainable solutions”.

This was G-15’s second Joint Statement at the Council of the International Organization for Migration. This year G-15 delivered a total of six Joint Statements, which included Joint Statements at the 67<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly; 13<sup>th</sup> Session of WIPO’s Committee on Development and Intellectual Property; the High-Level Event of WSIS+10; the 103<sup>rd</sup> International Labour Conference in Geneva; and the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of UNCTAD’s Trade and Development Board.

For complete Joint Statements, please visit our new website: [www.g15.org](http://www.g15.org)

### South-South News



#### **Ninth African Development Forum: Africa will be trading predominantly with partners from the South by 2020**

The Ninth [African Development Forum](#) was held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 12 to 16 October, 2014 on the theme "Innovative financing for Africa's transformation". The Forum is the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) flagship event and it is the first time it was held outside Addis Ababa, where the ECA is headquartered.

Prior the economic crisis, Africa's share of trade with other emerging markets was a mere 30%. Today that has gone up to nearer 50%, and by 2020, on current trends that could be as much as 70%.



One of the themes at this year's African Development Forum, a UN ECA event, was new forms of partnership. The idea is to move away from development assistance and adapting to the realities of today. Global economic trends reflect the ongoing geopolitical and economic rebalancing in favour of developing and emerging economies, particularly Brazil, China and India, all of which call for stronger South-South partnerships.

At the opening the session, Inyang Ebong-Harstrup, Deputy Director of UN Office for South-South Cooperation said, "I believe there is a deep sense that south-south should be the foundation for Africa."

According to the ECA report, in Africa, for example, developing countries' exports and imports have increased in just 15 years from 26 to 43 per cent, and from 33 to 50 per cent respectively. Furthermore, foreign direct investment from the five emerging economies known as the BRICS countries - Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa - reached 25 per cent of total foreign direct investment in Africa in 2010 and continues to increase. There is, moreover, considerable scope to further strengthen Africa's engagement with its southern trade partners in ways that promote structural reform while avoiding the so-called "primary commodity trap" or a "race to the bottom" by countries seeking to attract foreign investment.

Dr. Nkosana Moyo, Founder and Executive Chair, Mandela Institute for Development Studies, South Africa, said, "We have to look within and act together. It is true that economic indicators show us that Africa is rising but it would be good to

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4

find correlation between indicators and activities. I believe, the world is excited about us because we have resources and we have our markets." He cautioned, "but we should not become a dumping ground for other peoples' goods"

Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, Director of the African Institution for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), seconded Dr Moyo's sentiments, "For too long our continent has been engaged in partnerships that are unfavourable to us. It's true that things are changing but we need to understand and learn to partner in such a manner that we do not lose out in our deals. I strongly believe that no one is going to come to Africa to develop us. We have to do it for ourselves."

On a positive note, Symerre Grey Johnson, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), pointed out that African countries were already coming together to form positive partnerships as in the case of Agricultural trust funds wherein the main contributions have come from Angola and Equatorial Guinea."

Speakers agreed that intra-trade among African countries is very low. Last year, it stood at 7 per cent. The level of intra-trade among African countries compares unfavorably with other regions of the world. Intra-trade among the EU-27 is around 70 per cent, 52 per cent for Asian countries, 50 per cent for North American countries and 26 per cent for South American countries.

Ebong-Harstrup stressed that for a strong foundation in partnerships it is essential to have constructive partnerships within the continent. She said, "We can't grow without trade between African countries? Why didn't the three African countries get together to deal with Ebola? We need to finance our development without looking to the North."

The ECA advises that new partnerships must also take into account the increasing complexity of development finance. New actors have emerged,

including development partners from the global South and private philanthropic foundations, and innovative assistance modalities. While traditional donors still tend to allocate most of their aid budgets to initiatives promoting social development, southern development partners tend to focus on infrastructure projects and productive sectors.

*Source and adapted from All Africa 5 October 2014. © Photo: UNSDN*

#### Obstacles to development in the global economic system



As the international community wades into the political discussions regarding the alternatives to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015 and the design of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as mandated by the Rio+20 conference, it is timely to consider the question of whether development is a matter mostly of individual effort on the part of nation-states or whether there are elements in the international economic system that could serve as significant obstacles to national development efforts. If there are obstacles in the international economic system, it is important that the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs address the question of the elimination or the reduction of these obstacles.

The limited number of successfully developing countries since the 1950s has provoked a debate over whether the success of these countries required their success in eluding international obstacles to development. The following discussion does not have to take one position or the other. It evaluates features of the international system on the basis of how these features are conducive to enabling long-term investment toward economic diversification.

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4

Terminologies of previous development orthodoxies litter the development literature - import substitution industrialization, basic needs, structural adjustment, Washington Consensus, and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Each of these orthodoxies tended to be a reaction to perceived weaknesses or missing elements from the immediately previous one. The most recent orthodoxy, as exemplified by the MDGs, is that development is about poverty eradication.

This paper takes as a starting point that poverty eradication is an overly narrow, possibly misleading, perspective on development. Poverty eradication is a desired outcome of development but its achievement is permanent only with the movement of a significant proportion of the population from traditional, subsistence jobs to productive, modern employment. The association of development with poverty reduction created for the donor community the pride of place in economic policy in developing countries. But this place can be at the cost of reducing the responsibility of donor countries in helping to maintain an enabling international environment for development in trade, finance, human resource development, and technology. In the MDGs, these issues are crammed into “MDG8,” the so-called global partnership for development, with a very selective and poorly defined set of targets.

Development requires not just higher levels of income, nutrition, education, and health outcomes but in the first place involves higher levels of productivity and capabilities. Higher levels of productivity and capabilities are possible only with structural transformation of the economy. In turn, in most societies, such a structural transformation has been “associated with a shift of the population from rural to urban areas and a constant reallocation of labour within the urban economy to higher-productivity activities” (UNCTAD, 2011, p. 6). Structural transformation is only possible with substantial and sustained investment over decades in new activities and products, not just in anti-poverty programs.

Where the international economic system is hostile to investment in new, productivity-enhancing economic activities is where its elements create obstacles to development. One example of an externally based obstacle is aid volatility which has been shown to have highly negative impacts on macroeconomic performance and domestic investment (Kharas, 2008). The mechanisms in which the international system is hostile to investment in new, productivity-enhancing economic activities are elaborated on in Section II of this paper entitled “Commodity Dependence and Instability in Trade and Finance.” This section discusses how patterns of economic interactions by developing countries with the international system undermine investment in new, productivity-enhancing economic activities. For example, it highlights recent trends in which the export structure in many developing countries have become less diversified, indicating investment being channelled into traditional sectors, instead of new activities.

*Source: Extract from Research paper “Obstacles to Development in the Global Economic System”. For full research paper, visit [South Centre page](#). About the author: Manuel E. Montes is a Senior Advisor, Finance and Development at the South Centre.  
© Photo: South Centre*

#### Sri Lanka pledges support for South-South Initiatives



The Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Neomal Perera, participating in expression of solidarity with the Landlocked Developing Countries in South Asia and other regions, at the 2nd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) held in Vienna (3-5 November, 2014), stressed that as a country committed to the principle of non-alignment, “Sri Lanka pursues an approach, which emphasizes enmity towards none and friendship towards all.”

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4

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Outlining the policy priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka, Deputy Minister Perera stated that "under the leadership of His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka is beginning to actively participate in, and contribute to, South - South development initiatives, thereby demonstrating its goodwill and interest to engage with, and extend support to, friendly countries in need of support."

Deputy Minister Perera was elected to serve on the Bureau of the United Nations Conference as a Vice President.

The Conference was chaired by Sebastian Kurz, Minister of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, which hosted the event, 10 years after the first conference was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

During his stay in Vienna, Deputy Minister held talks with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations, Joseph Cap and the Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael Linhart. Highlighting the importance of the six decades of bilateral relations between Austria and Sri Lanka, both

sides discussed proposals aimed at strengthening trade and economic cooperation.

*Sourced and adapted from South-South Award and Business Standard, 7 November 2014*

*©Photo: Asian Tribute*

#### **GSSD Expo: Building a new collaborative partnership for sustainable development**

The seventh annual week-long United Nations South-South Development Expo got off to strong start with more than 500 delegates from 150 countries convening at the impressive marble headquarters of the Organization of American States in the shadow of the Washington Monument. The 2014 Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo began with a High-level opening ceremony featuring distinguished and powerful champions of South-South cooperation.

The Expo was hosted this year by the Organization of American States (OAS) and organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), in conjunction with more than 25 UN agencies and partners – demonstrating the strong commitment of the UN family to the Secretary-General's call for all partners to 'Deliver as One'.

"South" refers to developing countries while "North" refers to the industrialized developed countries. "Triangular cooperation" refers to development cooperation where funding and expertise comes from the North, and then is replicated and up-scaled across the South. "South-South" refers to development assistance where developing countries apply their resources and expertise to support other developing countries.

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4



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Gina Casar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP, said South-South and triangular cooperation offer a path to balancing growth and equity in the context of a “new collaborative global partnership for sustainable development” where all stakeholders stand shoulder-to-shoulder in their political, social and environmental development efforts.

OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza participated in the opening ceremony and noted that his organization works to support the efforts of its member states in achieving sustainable and inclusive economic, human and social development. In the area of sustainable development the OAS “is known for the effective collaborative networks and communities of practice that have taken South-South cooperation to a new level and positioned the OAS as a solutions multiplier.”

President of the UN General Assembly High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh told delegates in the crowded and hallowed Hall of the Americas that the strong economic

performance of many countries of the South in recent years are improving the human condition everywhere. To further accelerate this progress, he highlighted a new “pioneering” Fund – the UN Social Enterprise Facility for the South that will pool official development assistance together with equity funds and will initially support social enterprises in Asia.

“This facility has attracted interest from commercial banks, venture philanthropists and hedge fund managers specializing in socially responsible investment funds,” he said.

Yiping Zhou, Envoy of the UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation and Director of UNOSSC said this annual Expo has proven effective in bringing together development organizations from all sectors to establish inclusive and innovative partnerships, South-South, North-South, triangular and public/private so that the impact of successful development solutions can be scaled up.

“The collaboration of more than 25 organizations of the UN system at this Expo clearly demonstrates the strong commitment of the UN family the Secretary-General’s call for ‘delivering as One’ in the area of south-south and triangular cooperation,” he said in his opening remarks.

Source: [UNDP](#) 17 November 2014. © Photo: UNDP

#### **Lima conference set to “write history” ahead of 2015 climate deadline, UN official says**



The international community “must write history” on climate action and build momentum towards a new universal agreement to be adopted in 2015, Christiana Figueres declared today as she opened a two-week UN climate conference held in Lima, Peru.

“2014 is likely to be the hottest year on record and emissions continue to rise. We must act with

## Information Bulletin

### South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

October – November 2014; Volume 2, Issue 4

urgency,” Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), warned in her opening address earlier this morning to the 20th session of the [Conference of the Parties \(COP 20\)](#) to the landmark treaty.

“Here in Lima, to aspire to great heights ourselves, we must draw several critical lines of action,” she continued.

According to the conference’s agenda, countries will put forward what they propose to contribute to the planned 2015 agreement in the form of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) by the first quarter of 2015, in advance of the December 2015 conference scheduled in Paris, France, where the new universal UN-backed treaty on climate change will be adopted.

The UNFCCC is an international treaty that considers what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable. The COP 20, being held in the Peruvian capital through 12 December, brings together the 196 Parties to the UNFCCC, which is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

Over the course of the next two weeks, delegates will attempt to hammer out the new universal treaty, which would enter force by 2020.

The Lima conference is intended to provide final clarity on what the INDCs need to contain, including for developing countries that are likely to have a range of options from, for example, sector-wide emission curbs to energy intensity goals.

In particular, Ms. Figueres explained, delegates are not only expected to bring a draft of the new universal agreement to the table but also delineate the technical processes behind the steps moving forward and provide clarity on how finance, technology and capacity-building will be handled.

“We must consolidate progress on adaptation to achieve political parity with mitigation, given the

equal urgency of both,” she stated. “We must enhance the delivery of finance, in particular to the most vulnerable. Finally, we must stimulate ever-increasing action on the part of all stakeholders to scale up the scope and accelerate the solutions that move us all forward, faster.”

“With success in these areas, COP 20/CMP 10 is poised to deliver pre-2020 action, set the stage for a strong Paris agreement and increase ambition over time, ultimately fulfilling a long-term vision of climate neutrality in the pursuit of development that is truly sustainable for all,” she concluded.

Source: [United Nations News Center](#)

## Technical Support Facility

### G-15 QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN

The Technical Support Facility of the Group of Fifteen wishes to avail of this opportunity to invite news, information and articles from G-15 members for inclusion in this regular publication. Contributions may be sent to: [tsf@g15.org](mailto:tsf@g15.org)

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