

# Information Bulletin

Quarterly Publication

Volume 1, Issue 3 (July-September 2013)

## South-South Cooperation and North South Dialogue

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

### G-15 Foreign Ministers meet to boost South-South Cooperation



H.E. Professor G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri-Lanka, chairing the 36<sup>th</sup> G-15 Foreign Ministers Meeting; Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Chairperson of the Personal Representatives (left); & Mr. Saurabh Bhandari, Head of Office, G-15 Secretariat (right).



The Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of G-15 in progress at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 27 September 2013

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The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Fifteen met in New York on 27 September 2013 on the sidelines of the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters. It was their 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and the fourth in a row chaired by Professor G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka as Sri Lanka prepares to handover the baton of Chairmanship of the Group to the Kenya, on the ramparts of the Colombo Summit next year.



Noting the ongoing deliberations in shaping the global development landscape beyond the year 2015, the Chairman appealed for a collective voice in articulation of common interests and convergence across a wide spectrum of field, including eradication of poverty, balancing economic development with environmental protection, access to technology, reforms in international financial institutions, sustainable growth, among others. He affirmed that the Group not only has the potential to be an active contributor to the Post 2015 Development Agenda but can also be a voice on behalf of the Global South.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, the Chair of the Personal Representatives of the Group, while presenting the highlights of the activities undertaken by the Group since last year, made a special mention of the common positions arrived at by the Group on vital global issues as reflected in the five Joint Statements delivered during the year with more in the pipeline.

Noting the dire need for enhanced cooperation, engagement and solidarity among nations of the Global South for securing bargaining power and leverage, Ambassador Aryasinha pointed to the need for developing countries to engage more unitedly towards framing the international development agenda, in order to forestall it from being “imposed” by the developed countries as a *fait accompli*.

The Heads of Delegations of G-15 member states, which included the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Senegal and the Deputy Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed the meeting with their respective statements. They appreciated and thanked the Government of Sri Lanka, the Chairman and the Chairperson of Personal Representatives for able leadership, wise counsel and reinvigorating the Group with new dynamism and direction.

The meeting also warmly welcomed Kenya as the Group’s new Chair, following the Colombo Summit, planned for late 2014, and expressed heartfelt sympathies and solidarity over the recent tragic terrorist attack in Nairobi.



Unanimously approving the 20 of the 21 actionable recommendations spanning new, thematic and other areas of cooperation, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation commended the Personal Representatives in Geneva for their excellent

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efforts towards enhancing the visibility and relevance of the Group.

The meeting also acknowledged its sincere appreciation for the hard work and efforts of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation under the Chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt as well as the support offered by the newly restructured Technical Support Facility.

#### Kenya to assume Chair of the Group in 2014



Kenya will take over as the new Chair of G-15 from Sri Lanka after the Colombo Summit in 2014. The above announcement made at the 36th Meeting of the G-15 Foreign Ministers in New York was applauded by the entire membership.

The Kenyan Representative, while welcoming the opportunity to lead the Group, quipped: “We are fully aware that the task is daunting, but with our longstanding demonstrated unity as G-15, together with our well attested support for one another, we are convinced that we stand on firm ground to continue the task of steering this cohesive Group from the point to which our predecessor has brought it to still greater heights of development”. He reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to “continue the sustained efforts to strengthen G-15 through enhanced cooperation among and within its member states, by fostering the greater engagement of the private sector in addressing poverty and growing unemployment, promoting sectoral cooperation and strengthening Group’s liaison with Geneva-based Organizations”.

Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister, H.E. Professor G. L. Peiris conveyed appreciation of Sri

Lanka’s President H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa and his Government at this news and expressed willingness to host the Colombo Summit in the last quarter of 2014.

#### Ambassador J.L. Balmaceda Serigos - the new Permanent Representative of Chile joins G-15 family in Geneva



Ambassador Jose Luis Balmaceda Serigos (right) - New Permanent Representative of Chile

Group of Fifteen warmly welcomes Ambassador Jose Luis Balmaceda Serigos as the new Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Office at Geneva. He presented his credentials to H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva on 16 July 2013.

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Ambassador Balmaceda Serigos had served as Director of Environmental and Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2010; as Ambassador of Chile to Australia from 2006 to 2010, and as the Ambassador of Chile to Norway from 2000 to 2004. Throughout his distinguished diplomatic career, Ambassador Balmaceda Serigos has represented Chile in numerous international negotiations and conferences.

A career diplomat, Ambassador Balmaceda Serigos has carried out many different duties for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including as Director

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for Europe at the Ministry from 2004 to 2006. He served as Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Chile in Spain from January to July 2000; Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Chile in Austria and Deputy Representative to the international organizations in Vienna from 1997 to 2000; Counsellor at the Embassy of Chile in the United Kingdom from 1990 to 1994; Second Secretary at the Embassy of Chile in Peru from 1983 to 1987; and Third Secretary at the Embassy of Chile in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1977 to 1980.

Ambassador Balmaceda Serigos was born on 21 September, 1950. He has a degree in law from the Faculty of Law of the University of Chile, Santiago (1973) and a post-graduate degree in international law and international relations from the University of Heidelberg and the Max Planck Institute (1977). He is married.

#### **Ambassador Jorge Valero - the new Permanent Representative of Venezuela joins G-15 family in Geneva**



**Ambassador Jorge Valero (right) - New Permanent Representative of Venezuela**

Group of Fifteen warmly welcomes Ambassador Jorge Valero, the new Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva, who presented his credentials to H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Director-General of the

United Nations Office at Geneva on 1 October 2013.

Prior to his appointment in Geneva, Ambassador Valero served as the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations in New York since 2008. He served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to North America from 2010 to 2012 and as Deputy Foreign and Multilateral Affairs Minister from 2006 to 2010. Between 2001 and 2008, he served as the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the Organization of American States.

A career diplomat, Ambassador Valero has carried out many different duties for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including as Governor before the OPEC Fund for International Development and President of the Preparatory Commission for the II OPEC Summit in 2000. From 1999 to 2001 he served as Deputy Minister for Foreign Relations. Prior to that, he was the President of the Social Debt Commission of the Latin American Parliament. Ambassador Valero's first assignment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was as Ambassador of Venezuela to the Republic of Korea from 1995 to 1997. He started his career as a professor of under graduate studies at the Universidad de los Andes and then as a professor of graduate studies at the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Ambassador Valero has a Bachelor's degree in History from the Universidad de los Andes, in Mérida, Venezuela, and a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of London. He is the author and co-author of several books and essays on diplomacy and Venezuela's political role. In 2001, he received the Municipal Literature Award: Historical Investigation.

News Source: United Nations Office in Geneva

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#### Ambassador Aryasinha speaks for G-15 at the UNCTAD's 60<sup>th</sup> Session of Trade and Development Board



Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, the Chairperson of the Personal Representatives, while delivering a joint statement on behalf of the G-15 member states on 6 September 2013, emphasized that developing countries and the LDC's now need UNCTAD's assistance more than ever before in designing policies for dealing with persistent and emerging development challenges in the aftermath of the recent economic and financial crisis which has slowed the global economic growth.

The Group echoed UNCTAD's role and contribution through its three pillars in setting the appropriate environment for the developing countries to transform the challenges and uncertainties into opportunities especially through South-South Cooperation.

Reaffirming commitment to deepen and broaden South-South Cooperation as a complement but not a substitute for North-South Cooperation, the Group underscored the role of North-South cooperation and called for the developed countries to take the primary responsibility in international development cooperation.

In line with the theme of Doha mandate, the Ambassador explained that for UNCTAD members to benefit, globalization should be development centered and should focus on inclusive and sustainable growth and development outcomes.

#### SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

#### Kenya hosts 2013 Global South-South Development Expo



Kenya will host a Global South-South Development Expo at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 28 through 1 November 2013.

High-level delegates will gather from across the globe to spotlight, showcase and scale up innovative local solutions to global problems. South-South cooperation has already given birth to many inspiring initiatives. For example, towards a significant reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, over 40 countries from the developing world are already following a global strategy on the phase-out of inefficient lighting.

Then Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia have committed to conserving and sustainably managing the Heart of Borneo— 220,000km<sup>2</sup> of tropical forest on the island of Borneo and one of Asia's last great rainforests—which is home to the threatened orangutan, pygmy elephant, clouded leopard, and the critically endangered Sumatran rhino.

The Expo aims to harness such Southern-grown development solutions, which address both existing and emerging development challenges head-on.

South-South cooperation is the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge between developing countries.

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Today, over US\$5 trillion in reserves are held by countries of the global South, which now also account for 47 percent of global trade. This unparalleled economic opportunity could be one of the main engines of growth in the years ahead.

Featured experts and high-level presenters at the Expo will include Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director UNEP, President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, South African Minister in the Presidency for National Planning Commission Trevor Manuel, General Assembly President John W. Ashe, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation Yiping Zhou, CNN anchor Zain Verjee and others.

In addition, for the first time, the Expo will be held in the global South under the overarching theme Building Inclusive Green Economies: South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication.

Leveraging the partnership of more than 20 UN agencies and partners, the event is a strategic opportunity for countries, businesses, organizations and citizens alike.

*News Source: [www.unep.org/ssc/expo/Home/](http://www.unep.org/ssc/expo/Home/)*

**South-South Cooperation can  
boost achievement and  
development goals – UN  
Secretary-General**



Cooperation among developing countries plays an essential role in advancing development worldwide, says Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He gave a call for increased efforts to boost wealth and knowledge in the global South. In his message to mark the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on 12 September 2013, he said that “South-South cooperation offers real, concrete solutions to common development challenges.”

“Sharing best practices, funding pilot projects in far-flung locales, providing the capital to scale-up successful projects, supplying regional public goods, developing and adapting appropriate technologies — are the opportunities that the international community needs to better leverage.”

Mr. Ban said South-South cooperation was particularly important as the world approached the 2015 deadline of the eight anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Agreed upon by world leaders at a UN summit in 2000, the MDGs set specific targets on poverty alleviation, education, gender equality, child and maternal health, environmental stability, HIV/AIDS and malaria reduction, and a global partnership for development.

“In many developing countries incomes are up, poverty is declining and hope is rising,” he said in his remarks delivered by the Associate Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Rebecca Grynspan.

Mr. Ban pointed out significant progress such as the achievement of the goal to cut extreme poverty by half, increasing access to education for girls and boys, and significantly reducing infant mortality. More than 2 billion people also gained access to drinking water.

“These and other economic achievements of the global South have given rise to a rapidly expanding middle class adding a strong voice to demands for more liberties, equity, decent jobs and a wide range

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of goods and services that are critical to genuine human progress,” he said.

In spite of positive trends, Mr. Ban noted that there are still 1.2 billion people living in conditions of extreme poverty, and stressed the importance of defining a post-2015 agenda that will galvanize development efforts in the years and decades ahead.

“As that agenda takes shape, the international community is already united around the idea that South-South cooperation should remain an integral part of the global partnership for development,” he said. “Developing countries are turning to each other for lessons on innovative policies and schemes to address pressing development challenges.”

In December 2011, the UN General Assembly, decided that, beginning in 2012, the observance of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation would be changed from 19 December to 12 September, to mark the day in 1978 when the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

#### UN Survey Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda

On September 10, 2013, the United Nations released a report reflecting the priorities people around the world want to address in a post-2015 development agenda. As a summary of the findings from public consultations and surveys which engaged more than 1.3 million people in all 193 UN Member States since August 2012, the report showed that people call for better education, improved health care services and honest and

responsive governments and jobs. It also revealed that people want world leaders to focus on completing the Millennium Development Goals.

“Our work to define a post-2015 development agenda will help us to recalibrate our efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and chart a course to a world of prosperity, peace, sustainability, equity and dignity of all” - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.

News Source:<http://English.cntv.cn>



#### Forthcoming Meetings

- ✓ **October 25, 2013:** 109<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Personal Representatives of G-15, Geneva;
- ✓ **October 28 - November 1, 2013:** Global South-South Development Expo 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya;
- ✓ **November 26 - 29, 2013:** 103<sup>rd</sup> IOM Council, Geneva;
- ✓ **December 3 - 6, 2013:** 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting, WTO Bali.

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The Technical Support Facility (TSF) of the Group of Fifteen invites news, information, articles and or related inputs for this regular bulletin from G-15 members as well as welcomes comments and/or suggestions on this information bulletin.

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