



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

**THIRD MEETING OF THE SUMMIT LEVEL GROUP
FOR SOUTH-SOUTH CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION
(GROUP OF 15)**

Dakar, 21-23 November 1992

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. We, Heads of State and Government, members of the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation - known as the Group of 15 - present in Dakar from 21st to 23rd November 1992, jointly reviewed the evolving international situation and its implications for developing countries.

I. THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. Since our last meeting in Caracas and building on the process set in motion at our first meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 1990, the Group of Fifteen has been working towards strengthening its purpose and pursuing its objectives, especially in terms of enhanced South-South consultation and cooperation. We continue to be committed to constructive change and the shaping of a better tomorrow for the world and all its peoples.

3. Momentous changes of a political and economic nature continue to pervade the world, providing a unique opportunity for launching an era of global peace and prosperity. Central to this opportunity is the need to enhance global economic interdependence and cooperation which should enable all peoples to share the fruits of economic development and technological progress. A greater commitment to pursue democratization, both at the national and international levels, the rule of law and respect for universal human rights would provide a solid foundation upon which to build a just and equitable system of international relations on the basis of the full respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention.

4. The cessation of the cold-war and the growing momentum for disarmament provide the opportunity for the creation of a "peace dividend" in the form of resources that should be used for the promotion of economic and social development; a growing convergence of views with regard to the nature and processes of economic and social development should facilitate a consensus on strategies and approaches; the rapid advances in science and technology should be used to accelerate development and modernization of economies in an environmentally sustainable manner; the lessening of ideological conflict provides a unique opportunity for constructive international dialogue and cooperation.

5. However, in spite of this unique opportunity, the concerns and priorities of developing countries are still not being given adequate consideration in global negotiations and decision-making. International dialogue and cooperation tend to be fashioned on North-North lines and according to an agenda that reflects mostly security concerns. It is therefore essential that the North and South cooperate closely to realize the potentials arising from that opportunity.

6. Developing countries are determined to continue formulating and implementing national policies for accelerating growth and development so that all individuals in society can fully participate and secure for themselves a higher standard of living and a better quality of life. But they do so at a considerable cost. The process of adjustment cannot be a single, universal prescription but must be fashioned according to national specificities taking into account cultural, historical and socio economic conditions, as well as the need to strike a

balance between individual and community rights. Nevertheless, the success of adjustments is largely dependent on a supportive external economic environment. Furthermore, the concept of equity must be one of the guiding principles for cooperation in the international economic sphere.

7. The global economic system continues to be characterized by imbalance and uncertainty. A persistent debt crisis, volatile interest rates, reduced capital flows, deteriorating terms-of-trade and mounting protectionism combine to result in a net transfer of financial resources from South to North and a restriction of market access in the North for exports from developing countries. The growing gap between the developed North and the developing South is being aggravated by the scientific and technological revolution that has fundamentally altered patterns of production, consumption and trade.

8. Immediate and adequate steps must be taken to end the prolonged global recession centered on the industrialized countries of the North. Measures must be taken to revive growth, to stimulate trade, and to bring a degree of stability to interest and exchange rates. The coordination and implementation of macro-economic policies of industrialized countries should take full account of the interests and concerns of all countries, particularly the developing ones in order to eliminate the external limitations to their economic growth. Concerted action is necessary to ensure the positive contribution of capital and financial markets to the enhancement of financial flows and investment in the interest of the growth of the global economy and the development of developing countries. Moreover, the developed world should demonstrate a commitment to accelerated and sustainable development, as partners in international cooperation for development.

9. Rising aspirations and the growing number of youth entering the work force, exert additional pressures on the social and political fabric of developing countries. The problems of the developing world continue to be daunting. Critical and deepening poverty, hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy, disease as well as lack of shelter and sanitation continue to afflict large segments of the developing world. Such an adverse situation has often led to economic, social and political instability with widespread repercussions.

10. Global security must therefore be addressed in a comprehensive manner in terms of its social and economic aspects and not be defined solely by political and military considerations. It should also be based on cooperative actions and shared responsibility. It cannot be determined and maintained according to the perceptions and interests of only a few countries.

11. We are committed to the promotion of democracy, at both the national and international levels, pluralism, the rule of law and human rights in all their multidimensional aspects -- civil, political, economic, social and cultural -- on the basis of the full respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non intervention.

12. The violation or abuse of human rights of individuals or peoples should not be condoned under any circumstances. It is also important to stress that development is a key factor for the sustainability of democratic processes, the respect and promotion of human rights, and global peace and security. The interdependence of Democracy, Human Rights and Development should be one of the main issues of consideration of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna in 1993.

13. The World Conference on Human Rights should also consider concrete ways to assist interested countries, at their request, with technical cooperation and resources to strengthen their capabilities to promote the observance of human rights and democratic principles.

14. It is essential that Development be placed at the top of the international agenda and a supportive international economic and political environment be created in order to transform such a commitment into reality. We welcome the proposal to convene the World Summit for Social Development which should place people and their social needs at the heart of United Nations endeavours and provide an opportunity for addressing the multidimensional aspects of economic and social issues.

15. A common vision of global peace, justice, prosperity and stability is the necessary foundation for the creation of a consensus on development designed to meet the challenges of the 90s and to prepare the global community to seize the opportunities of the coming century. Development should not be concerned only with growth but should also respond to social needs, facilitate the eradication of poverty, enhance the quality of human resources, fulfil basic needs in housing, education and health, safeguard the environment and be based on the recognition and acknowledgement of national specificities.

16. The Group of Fifteen is committed to shaping a new international order that is truly multilateral and non-discriminatory, and which takes into account the growing interdependence and mutuality of interests within the community of nations while ensuring the fullest respect for the territorial integrity and independence of States. Furthermore, developing countries strongly support a truly universal, open and equitable world economic system based on agreed multilateral rules that respect fair competition, the free market, justice and fair play. An international framework based on the rule of law and non-selective, non-discriminatory international action on issues of global concern is essential in order to guarantee peace, prosperity and stability for all.

17. A growing convergence of views in support of global sustainable development together with the cessation of the cold-war offers the opportunity for genuine cooperation free of ideological bias and for the common good. The Group of Fifteen reaffirms its commitment to a constructive and continuous dialogue with the developed countries, and in particular those within the G-7, in a spirit of partnership based on shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

18. The United Nations should play a central role in facilitating and shaping a new international order based on the purposes, principles and provisions of the UN Charter, especially those relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, sovereignty, equality and universality.

19. Accordingly, the role of the United Nations should be reinforced and the multilateral system and structures should be democratized in order to facilitate the constructive conduct of international relations for which all member States have a shared responsibility. The multilateral structures under the United Nations for security, disarmament and development should be re-vitalized and provided with the resources to effectively carry out their mandates. The United Nations would have to be reformed in order to enable the system to cope with an evolving international situation and to rein force its capacities for the promotion of

cooperation for development, preventive diplomacy and crisis management in order to deal effectively with the threats to global peace and security.

II. SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN GLOBALLY, BUT OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Environment and Development.

20. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 provided the ideal opportunity for North-South interaction and cooperation which is central to the prevention of global environmental degradation and the need for sustainable economic development. Positive conclusions were reached in various areas of critical importance to developing countries. These are the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as a Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles on the Management, Conservation and Development of all Types of Forests. We should ensure that the fulfilment of the commitments made at Rio should enable developing countries to attain sustainable development. In welcoming the proposal to establish an International Convention on Drought and Desertification, we fully support an early establishment of an intergovernmental committee to elaborate this international instrument by June 1994.

21. In pursuance to the decisions taken at Rio, countries of the South should enhance consultations and cooperation with a view to presenting a common position on matters affecting the South. In this connection, we agree to vigorously pursue the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development under ECOSOC which will provide the institutional mechanism to monitor and promote the implementation of Agenda 21. Given the importance of financial flows as well as the mechanism to implement it, countries of the South should endeavour to present a common position at the forthcoming Global Environment Facility (GEF) meeting at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 2-5 December 1992 which would finalize the operational structure of the GEF, and also at the meeting scheduled for 14 December 1992 in Bern, Switzerland where the inclusion of an Earth Increment within the Tenth Replenishment of IDA will be negotiated. We believe that developed countries must continue to bear the greater responsibility for ensuring environmentally sustainable development and should announce in clear and specific terms, the financial commitment required for the successful implementation of Agenda 21. Also important is the need to ensure access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms to safeguard the environment while promoting economic growth and development.

Eradication of poverty.

22. The eradication of poverty continues to be of prime concern to developing countries. It is recognized that sustained economic growth is a necessity if living standards of the vulnerable sections of our populations are to be improved and poverty is to be eradicated. Immediate and priority attention must be given however, to the formulation and implementation of programmes aimed at providing the basic necessities in terms of health

and nutrition, especially in the context of maternal and child health care, housing, education and training, and the creation of productive employment. Comprehensive and multi-faceted measures should be geared to improving the living standards of the poor and to enhancing their long-term prospects and economic self-reliance. The active participation of the rural poor, particularly poor women, in this process should be encouraged and facilitated through the utilization of their creativity, knowledge and forms of socio-economic organization. In this regard, we endorse all initiatives in keeping with the recommendations, aimed at improving the economic conditions of rural women, adopted by the First Ladies Summit for the Advancement of Rural Women, held in Geneva on 25-26 February 1992.

23. The international community should take urgent action to alleviate the effects of famine and prevent starvation and death caused thereby, and to obtain a substantial and rapid reduction in child mortality and malnutrition. To this end, it is necessary to place special emphasis on the implementation of the objectives and recommendations contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children held in New York on 29-30 September 1990. In the same spirit, the Third Summit of the G-15 supports the recommendations that will be adopted by the International Conference for Assistance to African Children that will take place in Dakar on 25 to 27 November 1992, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity with the collaboration of UNICEF.

24. The alleviation of poverty should continue to be one of the primary goals of national developmental efforts and of international cooperation for development. Initiatives already taken at the national, regional and global levels are to be supported and commended and new ones actively encouraged.

Debt and Resource Flows.

25. We note that developing debtor countries have taken a number of bold initiatives and made genuine efforts at great economic, social and political cost to re-structure their economies and to stem the build-up of debt and alleviate the debt service burden. Despite these efforts, the debt overhang in developing countries is still very burdensome. High debt-service ratios continue to absorb a substantial proportion of domestic resources and foreign exchange earnings of most developing countries, undermining both their adjustment efforts and ability to achieve sustained development, while also resulting in an unacceptable net transfer of resources from South to North. External indebtedness should continue to be treated by the international community as a single issue of crucial importance.

26. Recent debt reduction schemes represent encouraging developments. However, there is a pressing need to provide additional approaches with a view to finding an early and durable solution to the debt problem regarding all forms of debt and all debtor countries including those that have continued to honour their commitments at great sacrifice. We welcome the General Assembly's decision 46/483 of 18 December 1991 to establish an advisory commission on debt and development in order to solve the debt problems of developing countries in a manner consistent with their sustained growth and development.

27. Primary importance should be given to ensuring a substantial increase in the flow of finances including concessional financing for development, so as to guarantee a minimum acceptable rate of growth in debtor countries. Adequate resources are also required for structural adjustment, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. In this context, an

increase in real terms of resources available under the Tenth Replenishment of IDA is necessary. Furthermore, additional financial flows under the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) should provide medium term concessional flows to low income countries. The capital base of the World Bank and the Regional Development banks must also be suitably strengthened. The Fourth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) should also be generous.

28. Foreign direct investment could play an increasingly important role as a source of development finance especially in terms of employment creation, enhanced exports and the transfer of technology. Developing countries shall continue to take steps to establish a favourable climate for foreign investment within the framework of the development aspirations of host countries.

Disarmament and Development.

29. We note that the current international climate characterized by reduced tension at the global level is most auspicious for general and complete disarmament, particularly the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we welcome the recent conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the initiatives being taken to reduce the existing number of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as well as to ensure their non-proliferation. It is our belief that genuine disarmament can only be achieved if all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are eliminated. General and complete disarmament should be undertaken on a non-discriminatory basis aiming at universal arrangements. We urge all nuclear weapon states to cease all nuclear weapon tests and to work towards the early achievement of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

30. We welcome the positive arrangements made, and agreements and international consensus reached by developing countries to further the causes of non-proliferation and disarmament and to consolidate amity and cooperation, which could accelerate the process of development.

31. Legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security and the need not to hinder access to peaceful uses of sensitive technologies should be taken into account within the context of multilateral efforts designed to regulate the international transfers of such technologies.

32. The continuing trend towards disarmament, the reduction of military expenditures and the progressive reduction of international tensions should make it possible to extract a "peace dividend" in the form of financial and technical resources for the enhancement of international development cooperation. An international fund within the framework of the United Nations represents one of the best ways of channelling resources freed as a result of disarmament for the purposes of development.

World Trade.

33. Developing countries are committed to market liberalization and the maintenance of an open, multilateral trading system based on the principles of non-discrimination and transparency as growth and development will be increasingly influenced by the international trading system. An increasing number of developing countries have adopted measures

for opening their economies and liberalizing their trade regimes with a view to integrating themselves with the world economy. The voluntary measures taken by them need adequate response from the developed countries by way of halting and reversing the protectionist trends and avoiding new protectionist instruments such as those related to the area of environment .

34. Developing countries attach great importance to the successful and balanced conclusion of the Uruguay Round. A successful result is needed to promote global economic growth and to prevent a deterioration of the world trading system. It is crucial to the development aspirations of many developing and least developed countries. The restructuring and liberalization underway in many developing countries could be seriously threatened if these processes are denied the encouragement provided by a strengthened GATT system. We follow with keen interest the recent developments, particularly on the issue of agriculture, in the hope that a compromise will be reached within the context of GATT, which takes into account the interests of all parties. We urge that the multilateral process of negotiations be resumed as soon as possible in Geneva and wish to re-iterate that the outcome should not impose any further burden on developing countries. An evaluation of the results attained therein should be conducted promptly to ensure that all issues of interest to the developing countries have been taken into account and the package of results is balanced and equitable.

35. The removal of existing distortions in international trade in agriculture is essential if developing countries are to promote and expand their agricultural output. This is particularly important, taking into account the needs of developing countries which are net food importers. The reforms ought to be transparent, and should include a range of issues such as market access, internal regimes and export subsidies.

36. The discriminatory and highly restrictive world trade regime in textiles and clothing has created a major adverse imbalance in the international trading system from the point of view of the developing countries. There is an urgent need to inject in the immediate future, a major dose of liberalization in world trade in textiles and clothing and to fully restore the application of the normal rules of free and non-discriminatory trade to the area of textiles and clothing within the shortest time frame.

37. The Eighth Session of UNCTAD held in Cartagena de Indias in February this year recognized the need for the institutional and operational revitalization of UNCTAD and confirmed its role in the formulation of an international consensus on development. UNCTAD can make a significant contribution to international trade and development, especially in light of it being an universal, democratic and multidisciplinary forum whose mandate places development as its cornerstone. The role of this organization, in pursuit of its mandate, should be strengthened and supported by all its members.

38. The production and export of primary commodities continues to be of vital importance to the economies of most developing countries. The present situation is characterized, however, by a continuing fluctuation of prices and by a long-term trend which has resulted in a historically low level of prices, in real terms, for most commodities. Primary among the factors leading to such a situation have been the substitution of synthetics, structural adjustment programmes and debt servicing which have exerted pressure on producers to increase their production and exports. Global recession, dampened consumer

demand, tariff and non-tariff barriers have also had an adverse impact on primary commodities.

39. In this connection, we deeply regret the recent action to introduce ecolabelling on tropical timber products. Such arbitrary and unilateral action is clearly unjustified and would have serious implications on the interests of many developing countries and world trade. This problem should be urgently resolved.

40. Enhanced cooperation among developing countries and between producers and consumers should lead to a strengthened and effective international policy on commodities. Such a policy would help to improve the stability, transparency and functioning of commodity markets over the long-term with significant mutual benefits for both producers and consumers. At the same time, it would maximize the contribution of the commodity sector to development of developing countries and international trade. The work of the Standing Committee on primary commodities in UNCTAD should be strengthened. The Common Fund for Commodities should be fully exploited and its Second Window should be strengthened and fully utilized so that horizontal and vertical diversification could be facilitated.

41. Regional and sub-regional economic integration schemes offer the opportunity to enhance international cooperation and development aimed at widening markets, improving productivity and competitiveness and generating investment. Such schemes in the South should also constitute an important aspect of South-South Cooperation based on mutual benefit.

42. The present global trends towards closer regional economic integration does, however, present opportunities and challenges that must be faced with strength and resolution. The international community should ensure that existing and evolving trading arrangements do not develop into inward-looking trading blocs that would divert trade and investment as well as erode genuine multilateralism. The main objective for the strengthening or creation of any economic integration scheme should be the enhancement and maintenance of an open, competitive and vibrant international trading system.

Science and Technology.

43. Development and its sustainability is directly linked to the ability of developing countries to benefit from the accelerating pace of technological change. And, while technological transformation is increasingly a prime determinant of economic and social development, the scientific and technological gap between the North and South continues to widen. It is necessary, therefore, to improve the access of developing countries to technologies, including new technologies and sensitive technologies for peaceful use, on fair and reasonable terms and to encourage their effective dissemination, use and adaptation. Mechanisms of international cooperation should be created in order to facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how, especially in research and development, and in the education and training of scientific cadres.

44. Cumulative scientific and technological knowledge and innovation should be used for the common benefit of humankind and intellectual property systems should help to promote

scientific and technological development in all countries and especially in those of the developing world. To this end, the competent United Nations bodies' in the areas of science, technology and intellectual property, should be strengthened and re-vitalized. Cooperation among developing countries in this area would be beneficial.

Human Resources Development.

45. People are both the means and end of development. Human resources are the most valuable asset in developing countries, and the success and sustainability of the process of development lies in their effective utilization and enhancement. Human resources development thus becomes a key factor in any strategy for economic, social and political progress. Human development represents a basic human right, and hence the crucial need for international cooperation for development. In this regard, concrete measures and particularly safety networks are needed in order to alleviate the adverse social impact resulting from the implementation of structural adjustment programmes in developing countries. The contribution of the international financial institutions and the United Nations system should be an intrinsic part of these measures.

46. Developing countries desire to foster the spirit of mutual help and support in which the welfare of the people will revolve not around the state or the individual, but around a strong and resilient family and community system. The declaration of 1994 as the International Year of the Family should provide the opportunity for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at achieving this goal.

Population.

47. The high rates of population growth in most developing countries may have substantial adverse consequences for their social and economic development. Relevant social organisations both at the national and international levels, should be called upon to assist in raising public commitment and the necessary financial and technical means to take significant steps towards the formulation and implementation of appropriate demographic policies. The World Conference on Population and Development to be convened in Cairo in 1994 under the auspices of the United Nations should provide the opportunity for the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of action and for the updating of the recommendations contained therein, taking into consideration the inter-relationship between population, development and environment.

Terrorism and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

48. Terrorism, in all its manifest forms, continues to be a dangerous and pernicious threat to national and international political, economic and social stability. The resolution of political or social problems and the attainment of political objectives could never be achieved through terrorism and its indiscriminate violence that abuses the human rights of many innocent victims and undermines the free functioning of democratic institutions. Terrorism assumes a particularly pernicious form when it has linkages that extend beyond national borders.

49. Illicit drug trafficking, its related problem of illegal production, consumption, transport and money laundering as well as its political, economic and social ramifications

constitute a dangerous threat to the political and social stability of nations. Concerted international action is urgently required through a comprehensive approach and on the basis of shared responsibility and common purpose, if this problem is to be dealt with effectively. The international community must support efforts of national governments in the eradication of illicit crops through, inter-alia, crop diversification, marketing assistance, and infrastructure development, in order to create viable economic alternatives for farmers.

50. Furthermore, when terrorist action and terrorist groups are linked to criminal organizations of drug traffickers, they represent an even more devastating threat to Governments and society.

III. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.

51. The recent changes in the international economic and political arena have reinforced the rationale and purpose of South-South Cooperation as a viable strategy for greater collective self-reliance and national, regional and global development. Greater global interdependence and the prolonged economic recession in the North underline the need for the South to look to itself to accelerate development and growth. To this end, unwavering commitment should be given to strengthening existing South-South efforts and the initiation of new ones for the enhancement of cooperation in production and trade, strengthening communications and transport linkages, facilitating the flow and exchange of information and knowledge, and encouraging cultural exchanges and tourism. We welcome the decision, taken last November in Teheran, to launch the Second Round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), which has an important role to play in the improvement of trade and market access among developing countries. Developing countries are also committed to having closer and more regular consultation among themselves with a view to harmonizing positions on international questions and developments.

52. Recognizing the need for and importance of South-South strategies, the Group of Fifteen has launched a number of special projects covering a wide spectrum of issues of priority concern to the South. Commendable progress has been made on a number of these projects which are open to all other developing countries on the basis of equity and mutual benefit. We remain committed to these projects and will take all necessary steps, including financial contributions, to ensure their successful implementation.

53. We note with great interest the conclusions of the Second G-15 Businessmen 's Meeting convened in Dakar to coincide with the Summit. The involvement of the private sector is crucial if the economic potential of the South is to be fully realized. We welcome the proposals to enhance this aspect of South-South cooperation in the future.

54. In this context, we welcome the offer by Zimbabwe to coordinate the project approved at our First Summit Meeting to establish a Business and Investment Forum with a view to stimulating cooperation among business communities and between business communities and Governments in developing countries.

55. The South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC), approved at the First G-15 Summit, is operational. On this occasion, we note with great

satisfaction the convening of the first meeting of the Board of Directors of SITTDEC in Dakar on 18 November 1992. The SITTDEC database currently contains over 7,000 documents, with emphasis on mainly trace related information. SITTDEC, which is open to all developing countries, would continue to contribute towards enhanced South-South cooperation, particularly in areas of trace, technology and investment.

56. Following the approval of the project on Bilateral Payments Arrangements by the First Summit Meeting of the G-15 in Kuala Lumpur, Bank Negara Malaysia has to date signed payments arrangements with the central banks of 15 countries. In addition, payments arrangements are being negotiated between Bank Negara Malaysia and a number of other central banks of South countries. We recognize that the Bilateral Payments Arrangements have started to show very positive results. The Bilateral Payments Arrangements have proved to be a very effective and important tool to promote trace among South countries. We urge other countries to undertake the signing of such agreements among more pairs of South countries which would facilitate the early implementation of the proposed Multilateral Payments Arrangement.

57. We also note with satisfaction that, following the approval of the project on the establishment of Gene Banks for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants by the First G-15 Summit in June 1990, significant progress has been achieved. Three Regional Coordinators have been identified, namely Egypt for the African region, Brazil for the Latin American region and India for the Asian region and the overall coordinator. The Meetings of the Regional Coordinators and the Scientific Advisory Committee discussed in detail a plan of action for implementation. An inventory of important medicinal and aromatic plants is under preparation. India prepared a model inventory which has been circulated to all the Member Countries. The need to set-up urgently a Trust Fund of US\$ 500,000 was accepted by the Experts to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations such as training courses, joint projects, seminars and workshops and arranging consultants to help various countries in the setting up of Gene Banks. The mode of operation of the Trust Fund has also been evolved with full consensus. We agree that such measures would help in both the economic utilisation of valuable genetic resources and conservation from the view point of environmentally sustainable development.

58. We continue to attach the highest priority to the area of alternative energy. Five Solar Energy projects - solar lighting, solar refrigerating, solar water heating, solar drying and data bank and corresponding country coordinators have been agreed upon at a G-15 Expert Group Meeting held in New Delhi in September 1992. Focal points in all G-15 countries have also been identified. We endorse these projects and their vigorous implementation. All countries should make appropriate budget provisions to meet the in-country and other costs of these projects. We welcome and endorse the new initiatives proposed for the establishment of demonstration projects by India, the holding of a workshop on photovoltaic pumping in 1993, training and manpower development as well as other proposals for promoting joint ventures for manufacture of Solar Energy devices in G-15 countries through contacts between enterprises in Member Countries. We encourage further exchange of information among G-15 countries on Solar Energy through publications and other commercial channels.

59. We welcome the results of the Expert Group Meeting of the Group of Fifteen on Food Production held in Jakarta from 20 to 22 April 1992. We encourage active participation of Member States to take the necessary follow-up actions.

60. Considering the urgency of the population problem, we note with satisfaction the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Family Planning held in Jakarta from 5 to 7 June 1992 and call upon Member States to continue their concerted efforts in formulating and implementing a Programme of Action on Population and Family Planning.

61. We welcome the results of Financial Expert Meeting held in Jakarta from 25 to 26 May 1992 which covered three elements namely, national initiatives, creditor action and joint South-South action including the setting up of a Technical Assistance Unit. We take note of the proposed modalities of establishing an Advisory Group and encourage further steps with a view to finalizing those modalities.

62. We reiterate our full support for the implementation of Self-Propelling Growth schemes projects in enhancing community self-reliance and people-centered development activities and appreciate training programmes offered by Indonesia in this area.

63. We also attach importance to the undertaking of new projects that will further enhance cooperation among developing countries. In this respect, we take note of the following proposals and welcome the convening of Expert Group Meetings early next year to study these projects: Establishment of the South-South Renewable Energy Promotion Center and Cooperation among Developing Countries in the field of Design, Execution and Management of Petroleum, Gas and Petrochemical Projects. Both these projects will be coordinated by Egypt, Expert Group Meetings on which will be convened in Cairo on 7-8 April 1993. Collaboration on the Utilization and Development of Non-Metallic Mineral Raw Materials, coordinated by Nigeria and on which an Expert Group Meeting will be convened in Lagos on 7-8 April 1993.

64. We welcome the offer by Brazil to organize technical visits and workshops in the second half of 1993 on Environment and Mining - River and Watershed Recovery; Geological and Mineral Research; and External Networking of Public Telecommunications.

65. We attach great importance to Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) as a vehicle for enhancing South-South cooperation. A Plan of Action on TCDC should therefore be formulated as soon as possible. ~ this regard, we welcome the offer by Egypt to convene a G-15 Expert Group Meeting on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in Cairo on 5-7 April 1993. We also appreciate the offer by Brazil to organize a G-15 Expert Group Meeting on Instruments and Mechanisms for the Implementation of joint activities of technical cooperation among developing countries.

66. We welcome the offer by India to set-up in Senegal, for the G-15 and other developing countries in the African region, a center to upgrade the skills of human resources in agriculture, water management, agro-based industries and traditional crafts. The detailed modalities of operation will be evolved through consultation.

67. We also welcome the proposal by India to set-up a center in New Delhi to impart training in computer operations and software development for candidates from G-15 and other developing countries. The entire cost of setting up this center would be met by India. The travel expenses of the trainees would be borne by the sponsoring countries. Expenses associated with training at the Center would be met by India.

68. In line with views expressed during the Second Summit of the G-15, Malaysia has proposed the establishment of a G-15 Expert Group for "Exchange of Information on National Economic Policies of Member Countries" (EINEP) to assist member countries in development planning and economic management through the modality of TCDC. We attach great importance to this initiative and note with satisfaction that Malaysia, as a member of the G-15, has offered to host the First Meeting of EINEP sometime in April 1993.

69. We welcome and accept the offer made by the Government of India to host our Fourth Summit Meeting in 1993 and the offer by the Government of Argentina to host the Fifth Summit Meeting in 1994.

70. We thank the people, the Head of State, and Government of Senegal for their hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the holding of the Third Summit Meeting of the Group of Fifteen.