



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

**TSF/2013/182<sup>1</sup>**  
Distribution: GENERAL

---

**BRIEFING ON POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BY THE SOUTH CENTRE**

Geneva; Monday, 29 July 2013

**SUMMARY RECORD**

1. The briefing meeting on Post-2015 Development agenda for G-15 was held by the South Centre on 29 July 2013 in pursuance of the decision of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation at its meeting on 22 July 2013. Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, the Chair of the Personal Representatives of G-15, participated in the meeting along with the delegates from Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. The presentations from the South Centre side were led by Dr. Mariama Williams, Senior Programme Officer; Dr. Manuel Montes, Senior Adviser; Dr. Youba Sokona, Special Adviser on Sustainable Development; and Dr. Carlos Correa, Special Adviser on Trade and Intellectual Property.
2. **Dr. Mariama Williams** opened the interactive briefing session on Post-2015 development agenda by welcoming the G-15 Chair of Personal Representatives and the delegates at the South Centre. While appreciating this opportunity provided by the G-15, she invited Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha for his opening remarks.
3. **Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha** thanked South Centre for organizing this important event as also for their warm hospitality. Highlighting the great enthusiasm among the G-15 members to liaise with like-minded institutions such as South Centre, the Chair underscored the significance of Post-2015 development agenda which offers an opportunity for G-15 to explore possibilities of coordinating and arriving at common positions in approaching this debate. Welcoming the expert support offered by the South Centre, the Chair called for enhanced cooperation, engagement and solidarity among nations of the Global South towards gaining effective bargaining power and leverage. Noting from the recent deliberations at ECOSOC AMR in Geneva, he highlighted the need for developing countries to engage more actively and collectively towards framing the international development agenda to prevent it from being “imposed” on them by developed countries as a *fait accompli*. Recalling the personalities of great eminence like Dr. Julius Nyerere (Tanzania) and Dr. Gamani Corea (Sri Lanka) who led the South Centre in the past, the Chair expressed confidence that this charged venue would open the door for stimulating discussion and cooperation among the G-15 members. He also thanked Dr. Martin Khor, Executive Director, South Centre and Mr. Yu, Head of Administration and Coordinator of the Global Governance for Development Programme for their support.

---

<sup>1</sup> Draft prepared by the TSF on 30 July 2013 and cleared version shared with Member States on 31 July 2013.

4. **The Chair of the Working Group on Sectoral Cooperation** thanked the South Centre for organizing this briefing for the G-15 experts and Ambassador Aryasinha for his presence and for his continued encouragement. In his view the briefing was particularly important as the Group is currently engaged in shaping the future direction of G-15. He also conveyed his appreciation to TSF for so promptly liaising with the South Centre and for facilitating the organization of this meeting. He then flagged some of the identified thematic areas of interest for possible G-15 cooperation such as migration, intellectual property, information technology, renewable energy among others, inasmuch as all of them have an important place in the Post-2015 development agenda. He then invited DR. Williams and Dr Montes to commence their presentation.
5. **Dr. Williams's** presentation made at the briefing is attached for further study and reference. Inter alia, she provided:
  - i. Snapshots of the Post-2015 Development Process and updates on the ongoing debate;
  - ii. Process of Post-2105 Development Agenda and SDGs;
  - iii. Dossier on the Present State of Play in Post-2015/SDG debates;
  - iv. Upcoming event calendar for Post-2015 and SDGs;
  - v. Overview on the origins of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Open Working Groups;
  - vi. Summary of the work of the Open Working Group;
  - vii. Brief on South Centre's approach and framework for the Post-2015 development agenda;
  - viii. Brief on connectedness between G-15 and the Post-2105 development agenda;
  - ix. Discussion on G-15 Sectoral Issues and the Post-2015 development agenda.
6. The presentation on "G-15 Sectoral Issues and the Post-2015 development agenda" particularly caught attention of all G-15 experts present given the *concept notes* planned on identified areas such as migration, renewable energy, information communication technology and intellectual property.
7. **Dr Montes'** presentation made at the briefing is attached for further study and reference. He primarily focused on the development agenda; its key challenges; the structure of SDGs; principles; policy space and actions as well as discussion on the way forward. Highlighting that the Rio+20 outcome document refers to only three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social), the proposal in Jeff Sachs Report (attached) suggests of a further fourth dimension of "Good Governance" and if this is endorsed, it may result in new set of additional obligations for developing countries (when as per Monterrey commitment, good governance and rule of law in the international level has not been achieved). Dr. Montes further mentioned the need for revising the structure of international commitments so that it is more based on equity and common but differentiated responsibilities where developed countries take a greater burden than at present. He stressed that efforts should be made to ensure that targets set guarantee environmental and development space and have no negative effects on developing countries.
8. **Dr Sokona** was of the view that developing countries at the international stage seem to be taking a "reactive" rather than a "proactive" position on many key issues concerning Post-2015 development agenda and SDGs. He sounded an alert that "if we as developing countries do not set the agenda, we will simply have to follow it". Highlighting the concern

that *energy-for-all* initiative is mostly driven by “technology” (i.e. supply-driven); it rests on the premise that technology and money will automatically solve all energy problems. According to him, we as developing countries need to look upon and discuss *energy-for-all* in the context of development to make most out of it. While reminding that developing countries have surplus of coal, gas, oil etc., he asked why should developing countries be just focusing on “more expensive” supply-driven solutions forced from outside instead of adopting a more comprehensive approach to effectively address energy issues and challenges.

9. **Dr Correa** addressed the brief circulated on G-15 Sectoral Issue (IPR) and the Post-2015 Development agenda and highlighted the need for “greater flexibility” for developing countries as recognized by TRIPS and that IPRs do not necessarily contribute to, or promote innovations in developing countries.
10. **The delegate from Iran** thanked the South Centre for this very useful briefing. He then wanted to know more about the two-set of goals covering Post-2015 MDGs and the SDGs currently being discussed in New York and enquired whether such a move may further complicate and/or burden the implementation and monitoring regimes in developing countries? He further inquired about the fine difference between the “people-centered goals” and “development-centered goals”? Lastly he inquired on the nature of these processes run in New York and if they were all membership-driven?
11. **The delegate from India** thanking the Chair, South Centre and the TSF for this important and helpful briefing seconded the concern expressed by Iran on the two set of goals currently being discussed with reference to MDGs and Post-2015 development agenda. Noting that well defined single set of goals with clear targets would be more helpful, the delegate invited views from the experts. Lastly the delegate also inquired on the ongoing discussions vis-à-vis the inter-governmental processes at play.
12. **The delegate from Egypt** thanked all for their insightful inputs and noted with concern the suggestion being made to add “good governance” in the mix.
13. It became clear in the discussion that of 8 MDG Goals, 7 directly targeted developing countries and only 1; the eighth goal (on global partnerships) targeted developed nations per se. They were arrived at in a top down manner (led by the UN) and later accepted by all nations but now in the making of SDGs (through a participatory inter-governmental process), it was desired that a convergence in view must be found. Dr. Sokona explained the different rationales at play between MDGs and SDGs and the need for developing countries to ensure that their interests, aspirations and concerns are fully factored in the new development agenda. The concern over funding on the Post-2015 development agenda through suggested “innovative sources” was also touched upon.
14. **The delegate from Zimbabwe** found the briefing “an eye opener” and thanked the South Centre for providing it. Noting that MDGs were “imposed” on developing countries, the delegate inquired on what would happen to them now in the current discussion of Post-2015 development agenda and SDGs, as we are still not fully over with MDGs. On inclusive participation, the delegate inquired how we as G-15 can effectively participate along with other partners. On Good Governance, the delegate noted that the discussion had no mention of “peace and security” though important.

15. **The delegate from Algeria** noted that both MDGs and SDGs had the word “development goals” in common but as development was understood differently by member states, how could one link effectively to the “international framework” on development. Highlighting the importance of Intellectual Property Rights (despite the development nations downplaying it in the Post-2015 discussions) called for a G-15 common position to move the agenda forward. The delegate inquired on how IP can be formulated within the frameworks of “goals” and “targets”. Dr Correa noted that IP is context dependent and hence it should be ideally integrated in the national planning processes to promote national objectives. He also highlighted TRIPs and the limits on the policy space.
16. Following a lively discussion and interaction among all present lasting over two hours, the meeting was drawn to a close. **The G-15 Chair of Personal Representatives** was joined by all delegates in sincerely thanking the South Centre and the excellent contribution and insights of Dr. Williams, Dr. Montes, Dr. Correa and Dr. Sokona.

\*\*\*\*\*