



GROUP OF FIFTEEN

The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

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FINAL SUMMARY RECORD

1. A joint consultation organized by the South Centre and the Group of Fifteen (G-15)¹ 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; Dr. Manuel Montes, 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 Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Senegal and Sri Lanka participated in the discussion.
2. **Dr. Khor** opened the interactive briefing session on the topic of the Post-2015 Development Agenda by welcoming and thanking the G-15 Chair of the Personal

¹ Established as a Summit Level group of developing countries in 1989, following the conclusion of the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit gathering in Belgrade, the G-15 comprises 17 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe). The aims and objectives of the Group are to harness the latent potential of the member states for mutually beneficial cooperation, besides serving as a forum for the conduct of regular consultations in pursuance of their common agenda.

Representatives, Ambassador Ravinatha Aryashina, and the present for their attendance. He then invited the Chair to take the floor and share his opening remarks.

3. On behalf of the Group of Fifteen, as well as on his behalf, **the Chair** expressed sincere thanks to the South Centre for arranging and hosting such an important meeting on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He expressed special thanks to Dr. Khor, Mr. Yu, Dr. Williams and Dr. Montes, as well as pointed to the Group's keenness to receiving a briefing on the state of play of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and a potential opportunity for the Global South, including G-15's, to influence the process.
4. **The Chair** noted the session sees the confluence of two key current objectives of the Group of Fifteen. The recent meeting of the Foreign Ministers in New York on 26 September 2014 provided the Group with a renewed mandate and underscored the importance for G-15 ensuring "value-addition" and taking a prominent role in shaping the international Development Agenda through South-South coordination during the Post-2015 period. The Foreign Ministers' meeting also emphasized the need for reinvigorating and strengthening G-15's liaison with Geneva-based institutions. In this process, he added G-15 particular content for collaborating with the South Centre, which remains a premier institution that serves the Developing World and supports "*developing countries to combine their efforts and expertise to promote their common interests*". He highlighted a similar commitment shared by both South Centre and G-15 to promoting South-South solidarity, and dealing with South-South and North-South Cooperation. Hence, given the shared interests, the Chair hoped for a mutually rewarding interaction and wished the collaboration will carry onto other common areas of interests, in order to advance the shared goals of the G-15 and South Centre.
5. In July 2013, well ahead of many of the processes that sought to chart the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) got into stride, recalling a preliminary briefing held by the South Centre at the request of the G-15, **the Chair** 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*. Back then, the Chair had called for "enhanced cooperation, engagement and solidarity among nations of the Global South towards gaining effective bargaining power and leverage." Sixteen months later, the meeting is taking place at an important

juncture, given the conclusion of the [Open Working Group](#) (OWG) which has identified [17 SDGs](#) with 169 targets, and awaiting for the UN Secretary General's Synthesis report next month² and the substantive Inter-Governmental consultations which will commence in the new year in order to agree on an outcome document which is to be adopted at Summit level in September 2015. **The Chair** noted the present briefing provides an opportunity to assess three elements;

a) to evaluate the extent to which the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) have served its purpose, and as to what extent these achievements will be carried forward in transitioning to the new SDGs?

b) to what degree the outcome of the OWG has delivered on the expectations of the Global South?

c) to identify, as to what continues to be the vulnerabilities in the forthcoming inter-governmental negotiations, in meeting the Global South's interests, especially in strengthening the means of implementation (MOI) and revitalizing the global partnerships for sustainable development?

6. **The Chair** pointed out that each country represented within the Group of Fifteen has its own perspective with regards to the achievement of the MDG targets. In Sri Lanka for instance, despite 30 years of conflict, the country has reached remarkable strides to keep pace with achieving the MDGs. Certain goals such as universal primary education and health indicators have been able to be in line with the targets, while on the poverty eradication the country was able to reduce absolute poverty to 6.7% in 2013 from 15.2% in 2007, surpassing the MDGs mid-term target. The free education and health system that prevails in the country was a key catalyst in achieving these impressive records, and Sri Lanka has now made it a priority to incorporate technological advancements and access to information technology in the Development Agenda, with equal access to all. Having been actively involved in the negotiations in New York of the OWG, Sri Lanka, as well as members of the G-15, believe that it is of utmost importance that the Global South remains united and engaged in the debate. The Chair noted that G-15 is of the opinion that all countries must adhere to the criteria agreed upon in

² The Synthesis Report of the Secretary General on the Post-2015 Agenda: "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet" was subsequently released on 4 December, 2014.
http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/reports/SG_Synthesis_Report_Road_to_Dignity_by_2030.pdf

Rio+20, namely that the SDGs must be "*global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.*" In practice, this means that SDGs must be based on the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' (CBDR). The goals should be common but the responsibilities need to be different and must reflect national realities. In other words, SDGs should be in line with what the Global South is trying to achieve and should not place additional restrictions or burdens on developing countries. True development goals also require a genuine global partnership and call for Developed countries to honor their international commitments especially those related to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity development.

7. During an interaction Geneva-based diplomats had with Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development, the Chair noted that the few Developed countries present echoed many concerns regarding the universal applicability of the SDGs as they inquired about the MOI, especially with regards to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Developing countries. As we move closer to the publication of the [UN Secretary General's synthesis report on the Post 2015 Development Agenda](#), the Chair stressed that the Global South must continue to reflect on how development is done, and not just what is done. The emphasis on the “how” versus “what” is particularly important in terms of the implementation of the new goals. Without articulating this aspect, committing and achieving the SDGs could remain empty rhetoric of 17 unattainable goals.
8. In the run up to the adoption of the SDGs at the Summit in New York in September 2015, **the Chair** pointed out the South will have the chance to review the future of [Financing for Development \(FfD\) during the Third International Conference](#), scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in July 2015, by influencing a package of proposals on financial, trade and global governance measures that will take concrete decisions for the future of development and guarantee ways to implement the SDGs. An opportunity for similar re-calibration will also be afforded to the Global South through the Climate Change Negotiations scheduled to take place in the UNFCCC context during [the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties](#), expected to take place 1-12 December 2014 in Lima Peru, as well as the 21st session of the Conference of the

Parties and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (Paris, 30 November-11December 2015) serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

9. Through continuing this conversation which was initiated last year, **the Chair** noted G-15 hopes to serve as a catalyst and bridge, connecting experts in New York, and the expertise of the South Centre based in Geneva. He mentioned the meeting must consider various options on the way forward and prepare possible actionable recommendations to improve the Post-2015 Development Agenda process, which could be shared with the capitals, as well as with colleagues who will be taking part in the negotiation process.

10. **Dr. Khor** thanked the Chair for setting the framework of the discussion, namely the role of G-15 and the South Centre in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in terms of issues and institutional aspect. He stressed that although located in Geneva, the South Centre provides services to 51 member states and to the larger community of Developing countries, including some members of the G-15. The South Centre continues interacting with important stakeholders in New York, such as the G-77, and strives to remain abreast of development in the Post-2015 Agenda to ultimately influence the process. Dr. Khor's presentation³ was structured around the following points:
 - a) Description of the state of play at the New York level, as perceived by the South Centre.
 - b) Identification of multiple scenarios which might unfold from the current state of play in New York.
 - c) Explanation of the interactions at the Geneva level and possible inputs to these identified scenarios.

11. **Dr. Khor** stressed that coordination can be challenging for some of the identified scenarios as certain processes are not always geographically centralized, namely such as the Climate Change process, which develops at capital level prior to final centralized negotiations. He stressed that both New York and Geneva missions could consult more closely on development issues. He further described the state of play of

³ Attached Document under Mr.Khor_Brief Note on Current UN Issues and Negotiations

the Development Agenda at New York level and pointed that despite the illusion of “glamour” and “excitement” surrounding the New York Development Agenda, Geneva has a strong role in shaping the Development Agenda that has strong implications and impacts on international development, given the agreements negotiated are legally enforceable. 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. Further, **Dr. Khor** noted when unable to push for their interests in WIPO, UNCTAD, or WTO, developed countries attempt to introduce language at the New York level, even when the latter is conflicting with already negotiated/agreed topics at the Geneva negotiations. Providing one relevant example to illustrate the importance of continuously sharing information between Geneva and New York, he explained that during the initial stage of the Rio+20 drafting, it was agreed the section on fishery will read “all countries must eliminate subsidies in fisheries”. However, a preferential treatment for small scale fishermen from Developing countries had already been negotiated and granted at Geneva level. Being unaware of such preferential treatments, New York teams did not object to this section during the drafting process. Dr. Khor noted “this could have been an embarrassing moment for Developing countries, hence the importance to circulate drafts between New York and Geneva”. Finally, he stressed the necessity to examine carefully the very subtle nuances of negotiated documents as even punctuation can have critical impact on legally enforceable agreements.

12. **Dr. Khor's** presentation made at the briefing is attached for further study and reference. Inter alia, he presented a Brief Note on *The state of play in New York on the current issues and negotiations at the United Nations Level* (Annex A: Brief Note on the Current UN Issues and Negotiations). His presentation followed three main axes: A) Debt Restructuring Mechanism; B) Third FFD Conference; C) SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda (DA).

13. Under the item titled *A)The Debt Restructuring Mechanisms*, **Dr. Khor** referred to UNGA Resolution A/RES/68/304 (Adopted 9 September 2014), drafted “towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring process” which mandates UNGA to elaborate and adopt the legal framework at 69th session before the end of the year 2014. He noted a similar resolution on regulating vulture funds is being negotiated in the Human Rights Council. He stressed for the

past twenty years debt restructuring has been highly contested by the Global South within UNCTAD but modalities of work towards a multilateral framework is due to be finalized by the end of December 2014. He stressed that *Debt Restructuring Mechanism*⁴ is a crucial issue that requires the Global South's full attention. If adopted, the resolution could provide an international rule-based process to allow indebted countries to restructure their debt and restart their growth. The current framework in place offers unwanted choices for indebted Developing countries: having International Monetary Fund (IMF) program with disadvantageous conditions; declare unilateral debt restructuring which could lead to unpredictable and costly vulture funds litigation, or no restructuring. The Brief Note also explores *The Rational for and Objective of Debt Restructuring Mechanism*⁵ by examining where such international arbitration mechanisms could be placed within the United Nations. Unlike institutions such as IMF or Multilateral Development Bank, a financial institution placed under the UN umbrella, would offer impartial arbitration for indebted countries. Hence, Dr. Khor urged the establishment of international independent mechanisms to avoid conflict of interests in the international community.

14. **Dr. Khor** further noted that the South Centre was invited to present a document on *Elements of Debt Restructuring Mechanism*⁶ at UNCTAD on September 2014. Subsequent to the presentation, the issue evolved rapidly and is currently being debated at New York level, UNCTAD as well the subject of discussions within the G-77. He underscored the establishment of debt restructuring mechanisms in the international arbitration courts will have greater impacts on development than many other issues being negotiated in New York. Unmistakably, he noted that Developed countries do not favor such proposal and advocate instead for debt restructuring mechanisms to remain in financial institutions, which they dominate, such as the IMF. He added the recent recruitment of Ms. Yuefen LI, Special Advisor and former UNCTAD employee and Economics and Development Finance expert, as well as the well-known chief economist Yilmaz AKYÜZ, have increased the South Centre's capacity to effectively deal with Debt Restructuring issues. Finally, he noted G-15's economists should share information regarding debt restructuring with New York Missions to influence the discussion and keep consistency within the Global South.

⁴ Source: Brief Note on Current UN Issues and Negotiations.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

15. Under the item titled: *B) The Third Financing For Development Conference (FfD)*⁷, **Dr. Khor** highlighted a second issue being discussed at New York level. The FfD conference, which was initiated by the G-77 and due to take place in Addis Ababa between 13-16 July 2015, will a) Assess progress of the Monterey and Doha conferences ; b) Identify obstacles and constraints, c) Undertake actions/initiatives to overcome the identified obstacle; d) Address new and emerging issues to support the Post- 2015 Development Agenda. The FfD Conference has multiple chapters and for reference they are listed in the Brief Note. Chapter 1: Domestic Resource Mobilization; Chapter 2: Foreign Direct Investment; Chapter 3: International Trade (Issue dealt at the Geneva Level); Chapter 4: Official Development Assistance; Chapter 5: Debt, Chapter 6: Systemic Issues; as well as additional issues such as 7) Assess progress and identify obstacles and constraints in implementation and actions and initiatives (Ref. resolution); 8) New and Emerging Issues (Ref. Resolution); 9) The question of Financing of Sustainable Development; 10) Finance and related issues in Post-2015 Development Agenda.
16. **Dr. Khor** stressed during the SDGs process, the South Centre was highly involved in assisting the efforts of G77 and China in the negotiation phase. He highlighted Developed countries are currently attempting to redefine terms such as *Official Development Assistance* (ODA) to their advantage and claim that Developing countries should rely on their own internal resources. Developed countries are advocating to place this item on the FfD agenda to modify the 0.7% agreed ODA to include South-South cooperation. Hence, he stressed “the South has to fight to retain what it has gained in the past “and avoid that the conference becomes “a retreat rather than an advance.”
17. Under the item titled: *C) SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*⁸, **Dr. Khor** expanded on the third issue taking place at New York level, and which is the central point of discussion of this interactive meeting. He acknowledged the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs can be confusing topics and clarified the many elements for the audience. He explained the SDGs originated from Rio+20, while the Post-2015 Development Agenda emanated from the MDGs, which in turn came from the General Assembly. The 2015-Development Agenda is directly linked to the Ministries of Development Agencies while on the other hand, Rio+20 is linked to

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Source: Brief Note on Current UN Issues and Negotiations.

Foreign Ministry and Environment Ministries. The MDGs were negotiated by Ministries of Development for Developed countries, while Developing countries negotiators emanated from Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The new Development Agenda is suggesting merging these two elements together. Dr. Khor asked the following: 1) What is the Development Agenda and what should it comprise?; 2) How can we accomplish development in this complex and globalized world?; 3) How can Developed countries help the Global South realize this complex development strategy, in terms of trading system, intellectual property, and technological system?⁹

18. **Dr. Khor** stressed that the global economic and financial crisis, as well as the EU and US international policies are threatening the development of the Global South. He detailed the mechanisms behind the “boom and bust” and explained Developed countries are pumping money into their own banks instead of their industries, and in turn, the banks lend money to speculators, who then inject it into Developing countries’ markets, negatively impacting their economies. He explained the inflow of excessive money leads to inflation, unstable stock market, and ultimately when “the mood” changes the money invested flows out of Developing countries, leading to deep recessions. Hence, this “boom and bust” financial cycle is directly connected to policies in Developed countries. The South Centre is of the opinion that development is directly linked to systemic issues of the global economy, governance, the lack of regulations in finance, the unfair rules and regulations with regards to technology transfer and trade. To address some of these issues, the South Centre created a detailed document, at the request and for the use of G-77, called *Sustainable Development Goals: Selected Goals, Targets, Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Development*¹⁰. Dr. Khor invited those present to note the many similarities between the SDGs proposed by the OWG and the report presented by the South Centre¹¹. He remarked Goal 17 “*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*” is the weakest topic of the SDGs and global issues such as trade, aid, financial system, technological transfer are absent from the language. He further explained that under Goal 8 “*Global Partnership for Development*”, the South Centre was advocating for a detailed and strengthened section, which still remains weak.

⁹ Source: Brief Note on Current UN Issues and Negotiations.

¹⁰ Contact: South Centre:directorouthcentre.org

¹¹ Final Document of the Open Working Group: “Introduction to the proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals”.

19. Ultimately, **Dr. Khor** stressed that the SDGs represent more than a set of goals; they address fundamental challenges for the Developing world. He noted, given that much of the SDGs stemmed from the effort of the G-77, many Developing countries of the Global South, unlike Developed countries, are satisfied with the outcome of the OWG. Concern was raised with regards to the possibility that the SDGs determined in July 2014, following a year-long of negotiations in the OWG, could be re-opened for negotiation by the Developed countries. Dr. Khor said re-opening the SDGs text may risk weakening elements in it that were in favor of the Developing countries. Hence, reservations and concerns of the text will most likely be debated at the New York level.
20. **Dr. Khor** reminded that a Main Outcome Document adopted by Heads of States in New York, in September 2015 will establish the Development Agenda. It can be envisaged that a SDGs document will be annexed to the Main Outcome Document of the Development Agenda outcome. Given the conclusion of the MDGs process, the meeting in New York will ensure that any outstanding and unfinished issues of the MDGs are addressed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which could incorporate an agenda item titled the “Follow up to the MDGs”. This topic could also be incorporated into the Development Agenda with its own follow up process. Drawing from a document titled Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, Dr. Khor also explained that the Main Outcome Document could also contain a section on Financing of Sustainable Development, which might focus on obtaining resources for Developing countries to fulfill the SDGs and other issues listed in the sustainable development agenda (i.e the Rio+20 outcome document which contains extensive information, including a section on the SDGs). The financing section can also draw from the report of the Expert Committee on Sustainable Development. Finally, Dr. Khor reminded that sections from the upcoming FfD Conference could be infused into the Development Agenda or Heads of States might be requested to endorse the conclusions of the conference. Hence financing might ultimately be negotiated at New York level, therefore it is crucial for Developing countries to keep abreast of the financing process as to endorse the most appropriate items, especially in terms of MOI. A section on Technology, Access to Technology and Technology Transfer could appear on the Main Outcome Document. Dr. Khor further suggested a Finance and Technology section could 1) Appear in a

declaration of Heads of States that endorses the SDGs, 2) MOI could involve issues of finance and technology, 3) The sections could appear in annexes and later be adopted.

21. **Dr. Khor** cautioned against negotiating Trade in New York, given the experts and expertise on the topic are located in Geneva. Finally, he highlighted the XIV UNCTAD will be crucial a conference and there is a need to defend UNCTAD's work in Trade, Finance, and Development so as not to limit UNCTAD's ability to deal with such issues. Dr. Khor was confident this issue will arise in the upcoming negotiations in relation to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. On that note, Dr. Khor invited **Dr. William** to share her presentation.

22. **Dr. Williams** greeted the participants and highlighted the state of play of the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as offered some reflections on the SDGs proposed by the OWG. Referring to the significant progress achieved by Sri Lanka to keep pace with achieving the goals of the MDGs, Dr. Williams observed that the important progress attained was however jeopardized as a result of the debt crisis, the after effects of the financial crisis, as well as adaptation to climate change. She illustrated the case of Jamaica and noted the country had reduced poverty to around 13% over the last 5-7 years, but stressed that the trend has reversed causing poverty to rise as a result of the debt crisis. She 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. 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. She noted that the work of Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu and Mr. Youba Sokona on climate address the issue of the challenges of low carbon development and energy with regards to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. She further added that the inclusion of the 17 SDGs and 169 targets is dependent on the Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General. With regards to the organization and modalities of the intergovernmental negotiations toward the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, she explained two informal plenaries which took place on November 4th and November 10th 2014, have so far been convened by the co-facilitators, Ambassador David Donoghue of Ireland and Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya. The first meeting sought the delegations' views on the modalities and organization of work for the intergovernmental negotiations but also explored the

sharing of view on the scope of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its components. In this regard, it appears that Developing countries are fairly united on the major issues including the set of SDGs produced by the OWG, which forms the foundational core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and FfD process. Developing countries are also clear that MOI and the global technology facilitation mechanism are crucial issues for the Development Agenda discussion. Dr. Williams stressed that the majority of Developing countries - including G-77 and China, CARICOM; the Pacific Small Island Developing States and the Alliances of Small Island States; Columbia; Bangladesh as well as many other Developing countries are of the opinion that the SDGs should not be renegotiated and should instead be the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. With regards to the FfD process, G-77 and China expressed the view that another significant input and discussions around the Development Agenda has to be the output of the ongoing consultations around the FfD process. The Africa Group has called for negotiations on the basis of a Zero Draft from the beginning of the process, while cautioning introducing new drafts every session. The second informal meeting, which occurred on 10th November 2014, focused on the modalities for engagement, the structure and the timing of the process as well as an outcome document. Dr. Williams highlighted the outcome of the meeting and explained the Africa Group repeatedly raised its concerns on the need to preserve the SDGs as the basis and that elements such as Partnership, MOI, and Monitoring and Accountability could be discussed. The European Union (EU) requested a road map and a calendar to ensure coherence with other processes, including the FfD and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) processes, as well as supported the broadest participation of relevant stakeholders and the involvement of a “strong technical UN system support”. The United Kingdom (UK), on the other hand, is of the opinion that the 17 SDGs should be shortened and compiled in a comprehensive set of actions to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. The country argues that 169 targets are not manageable by any country, either Developed or Developing. The UK is committed to the FfD outcome, and hence Dr. Williams cautions Developing countries to remain abreast of the FfD outcome. Finally, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Nepal, Cuba, Guatemala, Iran and Pakistan emphasized poverty eradication as the core goal of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and stress that FfD as well as Climate Change negotiations should be reflected in the process. However, the countries warned on the participatory aspect of the process based on the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC rules of procedures, inter alia with national ownership to avoid a New York only

process. In summing up for these two sets of meetings the co-facilitators, Ambassador David Donoghue of Ireland and Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya, identified the main components of the outcome document to be adopted at the Summit: a) An introductory declaration; b) SDGs, targets and indicators; c) MOI and new Global Partnership; d) Framework for monitoring and review of implementation. In that regards, the EU and more specifically France emphasized the inclusion of five main components to the Post-2015 Development Agenda: 1) A political statement of principles resting on the Millennium Declarations; as well as the post Rio+20 outcome; 2) The outcome of the September 2013 General Assembly, special event on the MDGs; 3) Climate Change; 4) SDGs; 5) New partnership, MOI, and the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF).

23. **Dr. Williams** echoed Dr. Khor's comment on the disagreements on the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. Clarifications are to be sought on whether the document will represent the basis of the negotiations of the FfD outcome document, or whether the Addis Ababa Conference will produce its own outcome document. She added a tentative calendar is being examined as many Developing countries are of the opinion that there should be no conflict between the content and processes. More importantly the outcome of the Climate Change Conference of COP 20 Lima should recognize while negotiating the final report of the Development Agenda in 2015.

24. **Dr. Williams** reflected on the strength, weaknesses and opportunities of the SDGs proposed by the OWG. On the strength side, she remarked that the process involved the full attention, contemplation and negotiating expertise of both Developed and Developing countries in the setting of the parameters that will determine the bounds of development, especially for countries which highly depend on ODA. In addition, the SDGs proposed Goal 8 recognizes that sustainably securing social and human development requires a functioning and growing economy geared toward generating jobs and income to promote better standards of living for all citizens in Developed and Developing countries. As far as the weaknesses, Dr. Williams noted that the MOI under each of the 17 Goals, are often vague, exhortatory and lacking in specificity. One reason stated is the MOI are expected to be addressed by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), which was

slated to conclude its deliberations after the deadline of the completion of the work of the OWG. She stressed expectations around the FfD Conference are really high and countries strongly anticipate it will deliver concrete ways forward around the 17 Goals. Finally, she noted some potential opportunities to be explored in the proposed SDGs, namely the recommended targeted growth rate for LDCs of at least 7% per annum GDP growth. In addition, she remarked, as articulated in Goal 9, opportunities for industrialization promotion and economic diversification are present, especially for LDCs. Upon those remarks, Dr. Williams invited Dr. Montes to share his presentation on the FfD Conference.

25. On the FfD Conference, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, in July 13-16 2015, Dr. Montes noted it is taking place at a very embarrassing time, given the state of the financial system of the Developed countries. He then remarked Developed countries are attempting to conceal three elements from the Global South: 1) Developing countries are net investors into the Developed economies because they are large buyers of international reserves. An amount of almost 600 Billion is reported to have moved from Developing to Developed countries in 2013, after netting out all flows including remittances, capital flight; 2) Developed countries are touting the private sector as a way to finance development. On the financing of SDGs, Dr Montes inquired about the feasibility of state actors in developed countries making commitments of financing for development on behalf of private entities. He added, the instability of the private sector financing causes issues with management and regulation of macro-economy; 3) Even though the scale of international private flows have zoomed up until the crisis of 2008, this increase generated no positive impact on fixed capital investment, the most desired impact for Developing countries. Indeed, the level of fixed capital investment has stayed roughly constant despite all the increase and dramatic drop in private flows.

26. **Dr. Montes** expanded on the following issues and challenges: 1) Infrastructure gaps, which have been built up under decades of IMF programming to reduce countries' public sector deficits, are often now stated as the answer to Developing countries' problems. 2) The lack of fixed capital investment is ultimately due to a reduced policy space. However, Dr. Montes noted that premature opening of capital accounts have prevented Developing countries to establish solid policy space, despite the dire need for it.

27. **Dr. Montes** highlighted the Financing for Development (FfD) Conference should try to preserve all 6 Chapters: *Chapter 1: Domestic resource mobilization*; *Chapter 2: Foreign Direct Investment*; *Chapter 3: Trade*; *Chapter 4: ODA*; *Chapter 5: External Debt*; *Chapter 6: Systemic Issues*. He noted the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) did not adhere to the 6 Chapter structure during the negotiations, and yet developed countries are recommending using the report as foundation for the FfD outcome document. He also observed the FfD affords some unique processes of, including possible accountability mechanisms on the part of the Bretton Woods agencies (the World Bank and the IMF and perhaps the US treasury in the case of systemic issues). The WTO is also a part in the FfD process giving the chapter on Trade. On *Chapter 2: Regulation on Private Investment*, Dr. Montes suggested accountability and completion of financial regulation should be requested by Developing countries to regulate private investment so that developing countries can obtain stable long term private flows from abroad to build their capital investment. *Chapter 6 Systemic Issues* is a crucial topic as reforms of the international financial system, including replacing the US dollar dependency to a more globally controlled currency, as well as reforming the governance of the IMF, would allow for a greater stability and long term financing for Developing countries. He explained that the heavy dependence of the global economy on the US dollar allows the US to run deficits and get free external resources, undermining the stability of the exchange rate of other countries, including the most vulnerable Developing ones. Finally, Dr Montes pointed out *Chapter 1: Domestic Resource Mobilization* is also an important topic as it deals with Developing countries' taxation system and their ability to mobilize their own resources. Greater attention is given to capital flight and progressive taxation. Dr. Montes noted under Chapter 1, Developing countries have discharged their commitments in FfD by boosting their domestic resource mobilization but yet have not obtained commensurate support from the international community for example in matters such as cooperation to combat capital flight and international tax evasion.

Following the presentations of the South Centre experts, participants were invited to share their comments. The Personal Representative of Egypt initiated the discussion.

28. **The Personal Representative of Egypt** showed appreciation to the Chair of G-15 for initiating the meeting and thanked TSF for their support. He also thanked the South Centre for hosting this important event and for their warm hospitality. He stressed by initiating this meeting “G-15, the nucleus for Developing countries’ cooperation, is revealing and asserting its initial role in the international arena”. He further noted the issue of development is not unique to G-15 but encompasses all countries, regardless of their development level. The PR of Egypt concurred with Dr. Khor’s comment on the confusing topics of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs and added locating the exact geographic location of the many on-going conversations can also be a challenge. He underscored four key elements vis-à-vis the ongoing Development Agenda process. First, on the MDGs, he remarked given the target date has been reached, the unattained goals should be renewed. In addition, the recently proposed SDGs have positively been expended in scope to include additional areas of development, which were not present in the MDGs. Also, despite a New York driven Development Agenda, the recent letters from the President of the General Assembly, circulated by South Centre during the discussion, confirm the process remains inclusive and open to the participation of Developing countries. He stressed this important juncture offers an opportunity for Developing countries to coordinate among themselves in order to get concerted actions toward the final stage due to take place in 2015 in New York, especially as the FfD Conference in Addis Ababa scheduled in July 2015 will not provide sufficient time for States to reflect on the document prior to its adoption. He further remarked that among the proposed goals, internet governance remains a missing element from the Development Agenda and explained that during the last meeting with [Amina Mohammed](#), Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, where the majority of participants represented Developed countries, it was suggested the issue of technology transfer should be financed by the private sector. He reiterated appreciation to the Chair for initiating this interactive discussion and hoped to see a future document that articulates G-15’s views on the Development Agenda.

29. **The Delegate of India** thanked the Chair for furthering the collaboration, as mandated by the last Foreign Ministers meeting, with Geneva-based organizations, and more particularly the South Centre. He also showed appreciation to Dr. Khor and the South Centre team of experts. He noted today’s meeting will allow the Group to further explore the format in which G-15 can be represented in New York and the discussion

should continue among the members of G-15. He seconded Dr. Khor's comment regarding the existing information gap between Geneva and New York/ processes taking place outside of Geneva and suggested today's meeting will serve as a "bridge building exercise" where New York, Geneva and the G-15 respective Capitals can reciprocally update each other to better prepare for the negotiations ahead. As the negotiations of the Post-2015 Development Agenda are intensifying and moving rapidly towards establishing a new development framework, he noted that there remain many challenges in the SDGs text especially as noted earlier, the MOI and hence, urge for more attention to details. The Delegate of India also touched on the issue of internet governance with regards to the decisions taken last year by the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) in relation to the establishment of possible international mechanisms for international public policies issues, which is the core issue of internet governance. He welcomed the South Centre expertise, in guiding the Group as the Development Agenda is evolving. He remarked the South Centre has provided enormous support and "ammunition" to sharpen arguments during negotiation meetings, including for the upcoming DRR negotiations, and the issue of internet governance. Finally, the Delegate of India called attention to the multilateral dimension of the United Nations, which he stressed will be at stake during the year 2015. He highlighted the organization 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. He stressed that no one can dispute the importance private entities play in the economy of Developing countries as business provides 60% of GDP, 80% of capital flows to them and 90% of jobs. However, the level of legitimacy of non-state entities, such as the private sector, in a UN context should be questioned. He echoed Dr. Khor's comment regarding the questionable involvement of private entities with regards to the newly introduced idea of "global partnership" - a term recently coined to include unaccountable entities such as the private sector and civil societies that represent their independent interests. He expressed that "global partnership" has already been included in DRR areas, where it is stressed that the implementation of international cooperation would require the participation of multi-stakeholders such as the private sector. He asked "what is our level of acceptability as governments, keeping in mind the accountability and legitimacy of this organization based on our definitions"?

30. **Dr. Khor** echoed the comments made by the Delegate of India on technology transfer and noted the United States attempted to eliminate technology transfer in RIO+20 but did not succeed. Similarly, in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#))¹² it also tried to also eliminate technology transfer from the IPCC report.
31. **The Personal Representative of Egypt** seconded the comments made by the Delegate of India on the notions of “multi-lateralism” and “multi-stakeholderism” in a UN context. He also recalled that the multi-stakeholder practice and the involvement of the private sector used to take place in the 90’s in the Committee of Transnational Corporation, which later became the Commission of Science and Development. Yet, he remarked the process, which ended 20 years ago, is reappearing in a more intrusive and aggressive way. He also stressed that the current UN charter has been called into question by many high-level individuals.
32. **Personal Representative of Sri Lanka** then inquired about the role of Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs.
33. **Mr. Yu** noted that Migration, though an important element of development, is currently discussed outside the UN system and has not been a core area in the SDGs. For instance, the [Global Forum on Migration and Development](#) (GFMD), endorsed in Brussels in 2007, is a voluntary, informal, non-binding and government-led process open to all States Members and Observers of the UN, to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationship between Migration and Development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes¹³. The process is multilateral and led mostly by governments, which invite NGOs. Every two years, a global ministerial meeting is held and the Republic of Turkey took over the Chairmanship of the GFMD as of July 2014 until December 2015. With regards to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr. Yu explained that their collaboration on the topic is unclear and discussions remain diffused and decentralized. ILO is continuing to request the infusion of “decent work” ideas into the targets and goals of the Post-2015 Development Agenda through the UN Task Team. He also regretted that Developed

¹² The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. It was established by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#) in 1988 to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. Source: <http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization.shtml>

countries have declined to address the issue of Migration so as to not engage on the issue of visas or quotas, which is unhelpful in an era where freedom of movement is being upheld as a fundamental right.

34. On the issue of Migration and remittance, **the Delegate of India** noted that one of the goals is to reduce by 2030 the cost of remittances to 3%, and eliminate remittances corridors which represent more than 5%. Observing that remittances received in Developing countries are presently higher than ODA, the suggestions by Developed countries to include these figures when re-defining Aid, appropriate since these flows are earnings of developing country citizens abroad.

35. Upon the request of the Personal Representative of Egypt, **Dr. Khor** clarified the relation between the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. He explained the SDGs emanated from the Rio+20 Summit, and were originally associated with the Sustainable Development Process and institution. On the other hand, the Post-2015 Development Agenda was created as an attempted successor of the MDGs and not the SDGs. He further noted the current financial crisis is jeopardizing North-South Cooperation and Developed countries are shifting the topic of the Development Agenda to be equated with the SDGs, in an attempt to avoid dealing with issues of economic growth, inequalities, industrialization, systemic change, governance, and global partnership. Dr. Khor further remarked in an effort to avoid directing aid to large, fast growing economies such as India, Brazil or China, the Developed world, which growth rate is recorded to be at 0.1%, is redefining the meaning of aid to ultimately dilute the measurement of the 0.7% ODA commitment, and as a result seeking to escape from its post-colonial/historical responsibilities. He expressed that Developed countries want to reserve ODA exclusively to LDCs and African countries. However, he stressed that North-South cooperation must continue, as Western countries bear a postcolonial responsibility to developing countries. On the issue of Climate, Dr. Khor also added that ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ (CBDR) 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 continue in the development process.

36. **The Chair** inquired about a possible role that G-15 can play in this process.

37. **Dr. Khor** stressed that South-South cooperation is becoming even more important today, and called on G-15 to “reclaim its initial central role” in this process by providing a non-UN platform where South-South dialogue can expand. He recalled that 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, G-15 should play a leading role.

38. Following a lively discussion and interaction among all present lasting over two hours, the meeting was drawn to a close. **The Chair** recalled the preliminary briefing at the South Centre in July 2013 and expressed that G-15 Members had greatly benefited from the discussion and relayed the information to their countries, which triggered follow up actions. He suggested an 'outcome document' on the discussion to be produced jointly by the South Centre and G-15, in order to inform countries' delegations and the public of the issues of concern and contribute to the on-going debate. This document will also inform the next PRs Meeting, which is scheduled to take place at the beginning of the year 2015. He also called to revisit the subject in 2015 as G-15 get closer to the Colombo Summit in order to better prepare the respective governments and collectively as G-15 in approaching the New York Meeting. The Chair ended the discussion by sincerely thanking the South Centre team for their excellent contribution and insight, and hoped for a continuing cooperation in other areas of activities. He noted the work and collaboration of Mr. Saurabh Bhandari, former TSF Director, is being carried through by Ms. Lobna Hadji.

39. **Dr. Khor** thanked the Chair and confirmed a future collaboration.

40. Upon these remarks, the discussion was drawn to a close.



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

Geneva, 25 November 2014

**Second session of the Briefing and Interactive Discussion
with the South Centre on Post-2015 Development Agenda**
Geneva, 24 November 2014

LIST OF ATTENDEES

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First Secretary

Ms. Wafa Ameuri

Foreign Affairs' Attaché
Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UNOG

ARGENTINA

Mr. Mariano Alvarez Wagner
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UNOG

BRAZIL

Ms. Clarissa Maria Forecchi Gloria
Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of Brazil to WTO

EGYPT

H.E. Mr. Amr Ahmed Ramadan
Personal Representative of Egypt

Mr. Mohamed I. Nasr

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Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UNOG

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H.E. Mr. Bollavaram Nagabhushana Reddy
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SENEGAL**Mr. Magor Mbaye**

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Personal Representative of Sri Lanka and G-15 Chair

H.E. Ms. Samantha K. Jayasuriya

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