

Information Bulletin

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South-South Cooperation and North South Dialogue

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



Stage set for the Colombo Summit from 10-14 November 2014

The XVth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) is now all set to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 10 and 14 November 2014. The event coincides with the Silver Jubilee of the founding of the G-15 and will also commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Colombo Powers Conference, where for the first time the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence governing the conduct of Inter-State relations were enunciated.

The G-15 Personal Representatives and Foreign Ministers will meet in advance on the 11 and 12 November 2014 respectively to shape the agenda for the Summit.

The Group is now being increasingly recognised as an important voice of the developing world and has made significant strides in advancing the Group's common agenda and in deepening South-South Cooperation in the rapidly changing and complex global development landscape. Its record of performance since the last Summit has been both promising and impressive. The Summit is expected to help further strengthen the growing bonds of friendship, solidarity and

unity among the Group of Fifteen member states. The Summit will conclude with the release of a Group of Fifteen Joint Communiqué.

Sri Lanka had taken the Chairmanship of the Group from the Islamic Republic of Iran at the XIV Summit held in Tehran during 14-17 May 2010 and after leading the Group so successfully for over the four years, it will be handing over the Chairmanship to Kenya at the Colombo Summit.



Forthcoming Meetings/Events

- ✓ **July 11, 2014:** 111th Meeting of G-15 Personal Representatives, Geneva;
- ✓ **September 4 or 5, 2014 (TBC):** 112th Meeting of G-15 Personal Representatives, Geneva;
- ✓ **August 15, 2014:** Suggested deadline for arriving at the Revised Draft Joint Communiqué for G-15 FM's Meeting;
- ✓ **September 2014:** G-15 37th Foreign Ministers Meeting in New York;
- ✓ **November 11, 2014:** G-15 Personal Representatives Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka;
- ✓ **November 12, 2014:** G-15 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, prior to the Summit;
- ✓ **November 13-14, 2014:** XV Summit of Heads of State and Government in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

GROUP OF FIFTEEN



Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

April – June 2014; Volume 2, Issue 2

Ambassador Marta Maurás Pérez joins the G-15 in Geneva as the new Permanent Representative of Chile



**Ambassador Marta Maurás Pérez (left)
New Permanent Representative of Chile**

The Group warmly welcomes the Ambassador Marta Maurás Pérez, the new Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Office at Geneva, to the G-15 family. She presented her credentials to Michael Møller, the Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva on 2 June 2014.

Prior to her appointment to Geneva, Ambassador Maurás Pérez had been serving as a Senior Adviser to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on business and human/child rights since 2013. For most of her professional career, Ambassador Maurás Pérez has been associated with the United Nations system. From 2009 to 2013, she served as a Member and Vice Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. In 2008, she was UNICEF's Special Envoy for Latin America. From 2005 to 2007, she was Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Ambassador Maurás Pérez was the Director for Economic and Social Affairs in the Office of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Chief of Cabinet of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General in New York from 1998 to 2005. From 1992 to 1998, she was the UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ambassador Maurás Pérez started her career as a lecturer and researcher at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Catholic University of Chile from 1972 to 1974. From 1974 to 1998, she worked for UNICEF, holding various positions in Chile, Pakistan, Mozambique, Colombia and at UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

Ambassador Maurás Pérez was born in Santiago, Chile in 1947. She has a degree in sociology and certificates in public administration and ontological coaching.

News Excerpt Source: <http://www.unog.ch>

New United Nations Envoy for South-South Cooperation appointed



Mr. Yiping Zhou of China has been appointed as the Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, on South-South Cooperation. It was announced on 30 May 2014.

Since December 2004, Mr. Zhou has been Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), leading the Organization's system-wide promotion and coordination of South-South cooperation in the global South. He is also Editor-in-Chief of Cooperation South, one of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) signature development journals.

Prior to that, Mr. Zhou served as Deputy Director and Senior Policy Adviser of the

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

April – June 2014; Volume 2, Issue 2

Special Unit for South-South Cooperation from 1997 to 2004, and as Regional Programme Officer of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific from 1992 to 1997. He was Project Management Officer at the United Nations Office for Project Services from 1985 to 1992.

Before joining the United Nations system, Mr. Zhou worked as Policy Officer in the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of the Government of the People's Republic of China from 1980 to 1984. From 1984-1985, he served as a diplomat in the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations.

Born in 1955, Mr. Zhou, an economist, graduated from Fudan University in 1977, and then pursued further applied academic research and studies at the Canberra College of Advanced Education in Australia from 1978 to 1979.

activities should be supportive of the development goals agreed with the UN System” and “Accordingly, WIPO should be required to play a proactive role to support national scientific and technological capability; foster access to knowledge and explore all possible mechanisms for innovation to effectively promote development”.

Ambassador Aryasinha made these observations when he delivered a Joint Statement at the 13th Session of Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) at WIPO in Geneva on 19 May, 2014 on behalf of G-15.

“Intellectual Property and Development” was identified as one of the four new thematic areas of focus for the Group in the coming years. This was G-15's second Joint Statement at WIPO following the one delivered at the 2nd Annual Conference on South-South Cooperation on IP and Development last year on 22 November 2013.

For complete Joint Statement, please visit: www.g15.org

G-15 Joint Statements

Press Release

G-15 calls for WIPO to pursue balanced and development-oriented activities on IP



Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative and Chairman of the Personal Representatives of the Group of Fifteen urged WIPO to play a greater role in promoting the understanding and adoption of Intellectual Property policies and laws in member countries, respecting their different levels of development. He said that WIPO's

G-15 calls international community to unite to cope with climate change at the 2014 World Health Assembly



Climate Change has become a leading factor adversely impacting the health system globally. The Group of Fifteen called for the international community to unite to advocate and implement policies to cope with climate change, including by preventing, mitigating and adapting to its impacts on human health.

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

April – June 2014; Volume 2, Issue 2

Delivering a Joint Statement for G-15 on 20 May 2014 at the 67th World Health Assembly in Geneva, the Minister of Health for Sri Lanka, Honourable Mr. M. Y Sirisena called for collective, multi-stakeholder global action to respond to global health challenges and to consolidate gains, reduce inequalities, and build strong global partnerships, ensuring inclusivity, transparency and accountability. This was G-15's second Joint Statement at the WHO following the one delivered at the 66th Session of the World Health Assembly last year on 20 May 2013.

For complete Joint Statement, please visit: www.g15.org

G-15 urged all WSIS+10 stakeholders to play a greater role in ensuring inclusiveness of Information Society



Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative and Chairman of the Personal Representatives of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), has urged all WSIS+10 stakeholders to play a greater role in ensuring the inclusiveness of information society. He particularly drew attention to “the emergence of a new digital divide, especially in terms of quality of ICT infrastructure, broadband access, affordability and digital content, particularly in low-income countries, and stressed that it was “extremely important that the overall review of WSIS processes gives highest priority to the challenges in a balanced and equitable manner.”

Ambassador Aryasinha made these observations when he delivered a joint statement at the High Level Meeting of WSIS+10 (World Summit on Information Society) at CIG in Geneva on 11 June, 2014, on behalf of G-15.

This was G-15's first Joint Statement on “Information Communication Technology for Development” after it was identified as one of the four new thematic areas of focus for the Group in the coming years at the 36th Annual Meeting of Group's Foreign Ministers in New York on 27 September 2103.

For complete Joint Statement, please visit: www.g15.org

G-15 calls for eradication of forced labour as essential for the full enjoyment of human rights and human dignity



Mr. W J.L.U. Wijayaweera, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Labour Relations, Sri Lanka, on behalf of G-15, delivered a Joint Statement at the 103rd International Labour Conference in Geneva on 11 June 2014.

The Joint Statement called for eradication of forced labour as essential for the full enjoyment of human rights and dignity. The Group demanded concrete and tangible efforts to increase prevention, victim protection and the prosecution and conviction of forced labour. Particular attention was called for cases involving slavery and human trafficking.

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

April – June 2014; Volume 2, Issue 2

While taking a note of the measure undertaken by the Director-General vis-à-vis the ILO supervisory system, the Group reiterated its position in connection to the importance of an inclusive, tripartite and constituent-led process for overcoming the challenges ahead, including the review of the working methods. It also underscored that dialogue between all parties must remain at the center of all efforts.

For complete Joint Statement, please visit: www.g15.org

IN OTHER NEWS



Political leaders of developing countries gathered in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz 14 and 15 June 2014 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Group of 77.

Presidents, Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers and Ambassadors from a hundred countries celebrated the event with speeches and a declaration that pledged their continued fight for a fairer world order, but also to improve the condition of life of their people.

President Evo Morales of Bolivia, who hosted this G77 summit, gave a stirring speech enumerating nine key tasks that lie ahead for the developing world, and chaired the meeting of interesting reflections from leaders on what the South has achieved so far, the present crises and big challenges ahead.

On June 15, 1964, when most developing countries had just emerged from colonial rule, the officials of 77 developing countries met and issued a joint statement announcing the birth of the G77, at the first ever meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva.

In that historic statement, the developing countries pledged to promote equality in the international economic and social order and promote the interests of the developing world, declared their unity under a common interest and defined the Group as “an instrument for enlarging the area of cooperative endeavour in the international field and for securing mutually beneficent relationships with the rest of the world”.

Fifty years later at Santa Cruz, on June 14 and 15, 2014, the leaders affirmed that the developing countries need to unite under the G77 even more than before, as the global economy is in turmoil and the world order remains still imbalanced against their interests.

“We emphasise that the rationale for the establishment of our Group 50 years ago remains actual and valid, and indeed more valid, than at that time,” said their declaration.

Also present were the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President of the UN General Assembly John Ashe.

The Summit adopted a 39-page declaration, a quite remarkable document which encompasses the current state of thinking of leaders of the South a half century after the founding of their Group.

Sourced and adopted for the bulletin from the briefs of South Centre’s Executive Director, Martin Khor.
<http://www.thestar.com.my>

Information Bulletin

South-South Cooperation and North-South Dialogue

April – June 2014; Volume 2, Issue 2

BRICS nations hope to bankroll a changing world order



The five BRICS nations will likely agree to fund their \$100 billion development effort. The new bank would symbolize the growing influence of emerging economies in the global financial architecture long dominated by the United States and Europe through the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Negotiations to create the lender have dragged on for two years, with some members growing weary of China's desire to have a bigger stake in the bank by putting in more capital. But this hurdle is being overcome.

Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are expected to sign a treaty to launch the bank officially when they meet at a BRICS summit in the northern Brazilian city of Fortaleza on July 15, 2014.

The bank, which will have start-up capital of \$50 billion, will have to be ratified by the countries' legislatures and could begin lending in two years, said the official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

Of that start-up capital, the countries will put in a total of \$10 billion in cash and \$40 billion in guarantees, which will be used to raise capital on international markets.

The new development bank would help cover growing demand for project financing that has not been fully met by global multilaterals, which for years have been heavily criticized for

meddling in the domestic policies of sovereign borrowers.

"The bank will look into the finances of borrowers, but never intervene in their economic affairs," said the official. "Any country can join the bank with a \$100,000 share. The idea is to provide them loans at a lower cost than what they would individually get in markets."

In five years the bank's capital should double to \$100 billion through capitalization from funding members, debt emissions or contributions from new members. The BRICS will hold a minimum of 55 percent of the bank's shares.

Sourced and adopted from <http://in.reuters.com>

G-15 INFORMATION BULLETIN

The Technical Support Facility of the Group of Fifteen (G-15 Secretariat) wishes to avail of this opportunity to invite news, information, articles and or related inputs from G-15 members for inclusion in this regular publication.

Contributions may be sent via regular mail or electronically to the following email address: tsf@g15.org

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