

Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-IX), Manila, Philippines, 9 – 12 February 1996

Final Report

Introduction

1. The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-IX) was held in Manila, from 9 to 12 February 1996.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Member-States of the Group of 77:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Federative Republic of Brazil, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lesotho, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, Untied Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
3. Representatives from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the G-77 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries participated as observers.
4. The Meeting was also attended by the Chairman of the Group of 77, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Berrocal-Soto (Costa Rica).

I. OPENING CEREMONY

5. The Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Jaime S. Bautista, Assistant Secretary, Office of United Nations and Other International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.
6. The Honorable Cielito F. Habito, Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning of the Philippines delivered the keynote address and called on the Group of 77 Member States to more effectively mobilize and deploy their resources, both nationally and collectively to energize development, draw strength from joint undertakings, exploit global opportunities and make the international system more responsive to their respective interests and as a collective whole.
7. The Secretary observed that while economic cooperation among developing countries is essential, it should not be regarded as a substitute for the more important global economic cooperation between developing and developed countries. He stressed that neither should it in any way replace or relieve the industrialized countries from their responsibilities and commitments toward developing countries.
8. H.E. Fernando Naranjo-Villalobos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and Chairman of the Group of 77 stated that it is imperative for the Group to harmonize and strengthen the coordination of its activities at the interregional, regional and sub-regional levels. He called for intensified South-South cooperation in the critical sectors of trade, finance, science, technology and technical cooperation, within the framework of Caracas Programme of Action (CPA) and Action Programme for Economic Cooperation (APEC). Towards this end the Foreign Minister recommended that the Joint Coordinating

Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 undertake the process of harmonization of the two programmes.

9. The Minister encouraged greater momentum for ECDC activities, while guarding against the risk of undertaking projects without fully assessing their potential. In this connection, he stressed the need to look into the reasons behind the inadequate utilization of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) and recommended specific ways and means of maximizing the benefits that can be derived from the Fund, as well as the new Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

10. Mr. Jaime Giron, Representative of the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and delegate of Colombia, recalled that the Chairman of NAM started the analysis of the different aspects, actors and objectives of South-South Cooperation. He highlighted the need for cooperation in defining a realistic and positive agenda to maximize the use of the ministerial level meetings on South-South Cooperation and those of the Group of Experts on Science and Technology.

11. The Statement of Dr. Julius Nyerere, President of the South Centre, was delivered by Ambassador Jose Manuel Gutierrez, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York. In his statement, President Nyerere called for the further strengthening of cooperation between the Centre and the Group of 77.

II. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

12. The Committee elected by acclamation the Bureau composed of:

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| Chairman | - | His Excellency Jaime S. Bautista
Assistant Secretary
Office of the United Nations and
Other International Organizations
Department of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Philippines |
| Vice-Chairmen - | | H.E. Ambassador Momodou Kebba Jallow
Permanent Representative of the Gambia
To the United Nations, New York. |
| | - | H.E. Ambassador Jose Manuel Gutierrez
Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
To the United Nations, New York. |
| Rapporteur | - | Mr. Aliou Moussa
Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Cameroon
To the United Nations, New York. |

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

13. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda with the addition of the topic: The Report of Mr. Tariq Sayeed, President, G-77 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Developing Countries. The Committee also adopted its schedule of activities.

14. The Meeting decided to create two Working Groups, chaired by the two Vice-Chairmen. The Working Group I's mandate was to discuss: a. Raw Materials; b. Technology; and c. Technical

Cooperation and Industry. The Working Group II's mandate was to discuss: a. Food and Agriculture; b. Energy; and c. Finance and Trade.

15. The Meeting was provided with working documents prepared by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77, including the Report of the Sectoral Review Meeting of the Group of 77 on Energy, the Report of the Sectoral Review Meeting of the Group of 77 on Food and Agriculture, Report of the South Center.

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY IFCC-VIII

16. The Meeting considered the documents relating to agenda item 4 (a to f) and the recommendations made by the Eighth Meeting of the IFCC in Panama in 1993 as well as the extent of their implementation towards the achievement of the goals of the Caracas Programme of Action. As a result of this consideration, the Meeting adopted the following:

IV.A. 30th Anniversary of the G-77

17. The Secretariat informed the delegations that all the documents were for their information unless there were comments, which they might wish to reflect.

IV. B. Sectoral Meetings under the Caracas programme of Action (CPA)

18. The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Sectoral Review meetings of the G-77 on Energy held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 – 7 September 1995 and on Food and Agriculture held in Georgetown, Guyana on 15 – 19 January 1996.

SECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Food and Agriculture

19. The Meeting recommended:

a. The adoption in full of the conclusions and recommendations, including the Georgetown Declaration on Sustainable and Competitive Agriculture by the Group of 77, of the recent Sectoral Review Meeting of the G-77 on Food and Agriculture held in Georgetown, Guyana from 15 to 19 January 1996.

b. In respect to fisheries, cooperative action among countries under the terms of paragraph 32 of the Caracas Programme of Action.

c. In respect of augmentation of food production, cooperative action among countries under the terms of paragraph 29 of the Caracas Programme of Action.

d. Establishment of temporary support mechanisms for local farmers, allowing them to adapt to the changes that the process of trade globalization will introduce in their economies.

e. Recognition of the functions played by women in the rural development of the developing countries.

Energy

20. The Meeting recommended:

a. The adoption in full of the conclusions and recommendations of the final report of the Sectoral Meeting of the Group of 77 and China on Energy held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 5 to 7 September 1995.

b. The exploration of ways and means to increase joint ventures and promote flows of direct investment among developing countries in energy-related issues.

c. Harmonization of the programs of developing countries on manpower training.

d. Creation and enhancement of data banks and exchange of information in the field of “triangular funding” of energy exchanges.

Trade and Finance

21. The Meeting recognized the fact that after almost 20 years of its release, the Caracas Program of Action on the issues of Trade and Finance has to be fully updated along the following guidelines:

a. Trade among Developing Countries constitutes still a small proportion of international trade and a minority share in developing country trade. Experience has demonstrated that to promote this trade, efforts should be expanded to enlarge cooperation to include production and technological cooperation and cooperation in investment. This would create the trade products needed and distribute more equitably the benefits of trade. Experience also demonstrates that trade among developing countries would not take place without adequate trade-financing, at appropriate terms and conditions, especially concerning non-traditional exports of medium and small enterprises of developing countries. Enlarging the marketing networks, the trading capacity and the trade information are essential for trade expansion among developing countries.

b. The importance of financial and monetary cooperation among the developing countries and with the developed countries should be reaffirmed. In this context, the support for the effective use, as appropriate, of the clearing and payment arrangements of the developing countries, should be reiterated. The progress achieved in the Second Round of the Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries (GSTP) should be noted. GSTP should be further revitalized and its coverage expanded in the light of the new reduction of trade barriers and tariffs brought about by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

c. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations has provided a good opportunity for regional and sub-regional integration groupings to reflect on how the Uruguay Round impacts on ECDC.

d. Trade financing is an essential facet of ECDC. In addition to trade, trade financing underpins business investments and technological cooperation. In this respect it was recognized that efforts should be made on three fronts: to assist in developing and upgrading national and regional institutions so as to build up their institutional capacity and train their personnel; to mobilize the involvement of financial institutions such as development banks and export credit agencies in the promotion of trade financing, especially for non-traditional exports and small scale enterprises; and to consider launching a process aimed at achieving multilateral credit arrangements among developing countries.

e. Capital market cooperation is of major importance for the mobilization of financial resources. In this regard, it could be useful to continue to develop, or introduce where they do not exist, inventories of regulations, legislative and other policy measures towards standardization, harmonization, equal treatment and eventual adoption of international norms by integration groups interested in capital market cooperation. The need to avoid duplication of previous or ongoing work should be borne in mind. Strengthening links among financial institutions, such as commercial banks of developing countries, is another possible area, which could contribute significantly to capacity-building and financial networking.

f. Among regional partners where closer economic ties are sought, predictable monetary policies are prerequisites for stable and realistic foreign exchange rates. To this effect, monetary policy coordination, including that of foreign-exchange policies, is increasingly important. For this purpose, the function of regional and sub-regional monetary agencies, where they exist, may need to be strengthened. Clearing and payment arrangements should be encouraged to assume a similar role where such a regional mechanism does not exist.

g. The attainment of currency convertibility by some developing countries does not diminish the importance of their clearing and payment arrangements. These continue to play an important role in technical assistance to these clearing and payment arrangements. It must be recognized that arrangements such as the Coordination Committee on Multilateral Payment Arrangements and Monetary Cooperation among Developing Countries should be supported.

h. Direct investment among developing countries should be encouraged. For this, it may be worthwhile to consider measures such as the harmonization of investment policies and conclusion of bilateral and multilateral promotion and protection treaties.

i. It is important to create the necessary conditions to encourage cross-border business activities. The dissemination and networking of information on investment opportunities, rules and regulations will contribute to the facilitation of investment to and among developing countries, in particular those dealing with measures on how to cope with liberalization and privatization.

j. In the interest of evolving effective ECDC under the present conditions, it is imperative to encompass cooperation in investment, production, technology and the development of human resources in addition to trade and market access. Such multi-faceted cooperation contributes directly to the supply capacities of developing countries. Such cooperative efforts should be deepened and intensified.

Science and Technology

22. The Meeting recommended that development of scientific and technological capabilities in developing countries be pursued through inter-country cooperation in the exploitation of economies of scale and complementarities in the areas of research and development, technology transfer and commercialization exchanges of information, experts and human resources development. To achieve these objectives in the context of the CPA, developing countries should inter alia:

a. Establish and upgrade existing national and regional institutions or agencies dealing with science and technology to accelerate and enhance cooperation among developing countries.

b. Endeavor to incorporate the provisions of the CPA into national policies and programmes.

c. Establish and maintain data bases containing the strengths and needs of developing countries in science and technology, including lists of scientists and experts in specific fields.

d. Establish networks of R&D and S&T institutions, or “Centers of Excellence” in the identified priority areas such as: information technology, biotechnology, energy and human resources development, among others.

e. Promote research and development and technology transfer activities among developing countries with the active participation of the private sector.

f. Enhance the capabilities of the developing countries in negotiations for the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries and between developing countries. The activities of the Centre for Science and Technology in India established by the Non-Aligned Movement is important in this regard and developing countries are urged to actively participate therein.

g. Utilize effectively the potential of the United Nations system in the promotion of science and technology cooperation among developing countries.

h. Convene technical and experts meetings, as well as meetings of heads of agencies responsible for science and technology for continuous planning and assessment of the progress made in this area.

i. Cooperate in the development of indigenous scientific and technological capabilities.

j. Promote and strengthen joint efforts in pursuit of the development of environmentally sound technologies.

k. Promote “Science and Technology Culture” which includes information dissemination, inclusion of S&T in the educational curriculum and improvement of S&T infrastructure.

23. Raw Materials

The Meeting also agreed to recommend:

a. Increased participation of developing countries in international trade based on available or existing commodities and preferential tariffs should be encouraged and facilitated, while the necessary commodity and trade policies to achieve stabilization of raw material prices, diversification and other related factors are being developed.

b. The developing countries should call for the institutionalization of measures to mitigate the negative and adverse effects from the implementation of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Agreement, in order to positively impact on the economies of the least developed countries.

c. The G-77, as soon as practicable, should hold a sectoral meeting on raw materials in the context of the Caracas Programme of Action, consistent with the theme on the Development of Africa as adopted by the ECOSOC, during its substantive meeting in Geneva, in June 1995.

d. Developing countries should work towards coordinating the national, regional, interregional commodity policies that address the questions of research and development, diversification, investments and trade.

e. Developing countries should give importance to the raw materials and commodities sector, with a view to adding value before exportation and to using environmentally sound and efficient technologies for production and exploitation, as well as for storage and transportation.

f. Developing countries should become active parties to the GATT (UR)-WTO to achieve liberalization of international trade and reestablish comparative advantages of developing countries in commodity production.

g. The international community should strive to actively participate and work for innovative and responsive approaches in existing international commodity agreements, like the Common Fund for Commodities, to improve the earnings of commodity producers.

h. The Action Committees on Raw Materials should be requested to submit to the next G-77 Ministerial Conference a report on the study it was mandated in IFCC-VIII in Panama, relating to the association of and agreements between producers and exporters of raw materials.

i. The possibility of adapting applicable features of sub-regional growth models in the areas of raw materials in trade, distribution, marketing, investments and exchange of technology should be explored.

24. Industrialization

The Meeting agreed to recommend:

a. Developing countries should encourage small and medium scale industries as an approach to the implementation of industrialization programmes. To this end, it was felt that a favorable environment should be established, including, inter alia, the harmonization of fiscal incentives for investments, coordination of open trade policies, joint development of human resources, and inter-regional transportation facilities.

b. Developing countries, where possible, should coordinate industrialization strategies at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels, to take advantage of complementarities, scale economies and lower costs. In this connection, more effective use should be made of existing mechanisms provided by integration groupings for regular review and identification of specific industries.

c. UNIDO should be called to assist developing countries in the process of sharing their capacities and responding to each other's needs, through an inventory of capacities and needs of developing country institutions and of international institutions in specific industrial sectors.

d. In considering UN reforms, developing countries should support the continued existence and the improvement in effectiveness of the UNIDO.

e. In implementing joint development of human resources, developing countries should maximize training resources in appropriate and innovative technologies.

f. Developing countries should recognize the critical role of Science and Technology and Human Resource Development (HRD) in the process of industrialization by emphasizing basic education, training and skills upgrading as well as by exchanging information through national focal points, dialogues, publications and exchange of experts. Developing countries should commit to put together national, sub-regional and inter-regional HRD proposals and facilitate exchanges in this area.

25. Technical Cooperation

The Meeting recommended:

a. Strengthening of the capability of relevant national institutions to identify national technical needs and adequately describe available national technical capacities. These are responsibilities, which should be pursued by strengthened national focal points.

b. Development of specific information banks such as SID/TAP, SID/NET and TCDC INRES-South of the Special Unit for TCDC of UNDP, to integrate and disseminate national submission of needs and capacities and to network within and among developing countries and other international organizations.

c. Promotion and implementation of TCDC programming exercises in a well-coordinated manner to meet the demands of user-countries. This should be the responsibility of host developing countries, UN agencies, particularly the Special Unit for TCDC of UNDP, UNCTAD as well as other relevant parts of the UN system.

d. Specific programmes of assistance to be created for those countries, which require assistance in identifying and articulating their needs and capacities, in order to participate fully in TCDC activities and programming exercises. Developing countries, in a position to do so, are encouraged to provide resources for these activities and programming exercises.

e. Convincing the United Nations bodies and multilateral development funding institutions to make it a condition that TCDC modalities should be employed as a first option wherever and whenever possible in any project.

f. Exploration of tripartite and multipartite funding arrangements as a means of increasing availability of resources for promoting TCDC. In addition, private sector and NGO-funding should be encouraged.

g. The various regional and sub-regional programmes organized by the multilateral agencies play an important role in allocating resources in support of TCDC initiatives.

h. Encouragement of developing countries in setting aside national counterpart funding for TCDC activities. The future direction of TCDC should be oriented not only to science and technology and human resource development but also to environmental protection.

i. Periodic meetings of TCDC national focal points should be held to exchange ideas for promotion and implementation of TCDC activities. Such meetings may be organized by the Special Unit of TCDC in New York.

26. Other Issues

a. The meeting emphasized the importance of the Programme of Action adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in Barbados, in April to May 1994, and welcomed the General Assembly resolutions on the subject which called upon the international community to support the implementation of the Programme of Action. In particular, it welcomed the progress being made by UNDP in compiling the Directory of SIDS scholars and experts. It also urged UNDP to continue its efforts to identify high-priority technical assistance projects to be implemented under the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme

(SIDS/TAP), in fulfillment of the objectives of the Barbados Programme of Action. Finally, it urged UNPCSD and other organizations and agencies of the UN system to ensure increased coordination of effort in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action.

b. In order to resolve the concerns of different interested countries on the distribution and benefits gained from the limited resources of the PGTF, the Meeting underlined the need to find projects in areas of common interest for most of the developing countries. For example: i) importation of technology for agriculture development to achieve goals like food security (diversification horizontal and vertical); ii) encouraging production in and trade on environmentally competitive advantages so that developing countries could be assisted in meeting the challenges posed by a liberalized and globalized world economy and could face the negative impacts of the Uruguay Round. At the same time, this would allow widening the range of interested partners to increase their contributions to and enhancing the capital of the Fund.

IV.C. JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE BETWEEN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) AND THE GROUP OF 77

27. The document was introduced by the Delegate of Colombia. He stated that the Terms of Reference for the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was decided during the last meeting in Panama and has been dealt with for the past four to five years. The JCC is envisioned to enhance collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts, and provide for greater efficiency in the attainment of common goals and objectives of the two groupings. He commented that at present, there exists an excellent coordinating mechanism between G-77 and NAM.

28. The Meeting noted that since the Terms of Reference of the JCC are still in an evolutionary stage, several things have to be worked out by the Committee. It sought clarification on the progress of harmonization of the implementation of APEC and CPA.

29. The Meeting proposed the strengthening of the G-77 office in New York, particularly at the operational level, in order to fully implement the mandate of JCC in enhancing South-South Cooperation and harmonizing the CPA of the G-77 and the APEC of NAM.

30. The Meeting recommended that both the recommendations of the Sectoral Meetings on Food and Agriculture held in Georgetown and on Energy held in Jakarta should be delivered to the Chairman of NAM in New York.

IV. D. HARMONIZATION OF THE CARACAS PROGRAMME OF ACTION (CPA) ON ECDC OF G-77 AND THE ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) OF NAM

31. The Meeting emphasized the need for concrete action in harmonizing the proposals contained in the two documents and for practical modalities for actualizing the proposals in the documents.

32. The Meeting proposed that a study of these documents by institutions, such as the South Center, be made to consolidate them with guidance on the approach from the JCC.

IV. E. FOLLOW-UP ON THE REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE CPA UNDERTAKEN BY IFCC-VIII

33. Having recommended the approval of the reports of the Sectoral Meetings on Energy in Jakarta and on Food and Agriculture in Georgetown, the Meeting noted the plans of the current chairmanship of G-77 to hold two more sectoral meetings, one on Raw Materials and another on Trade and Finance.

IV. F. REPORT OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

34. The Meeting took note of the Report of the South Centre and the Meeting further acknowledged the support given by the South Centre to the G-77's institutional mechanisms and called for the Centre's continued support.

V. A. SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GROUP OF 77

35. The Meeting stressed the need to seriously address the subject of strengthening the institutional capacity of the G-77.

36. The Meeting acknowledged the support given by UNCTAD to G-77's institutional mechanisms and called for the continuation of its support, backstopping and facilitation.

37. The Meeting was informed that there was an initiative made by the African Group to convene a Sectoral Meeting on Raw Materials. It underscored the importance of follow-up meetings on CPA to come up with a blueprint of action for the G-77. It also noted the staffing difficulties of the G-77 Secretariat in New York and expressed the need to address this issue.

38. The Meeting recommended that the CPA focus on the utilization of funds and programs for African countries.

39. The Meeting was informed of a decision made in Geneva in March 1995 by the Chapters of G-77 that the next G-77 Chapters Meeting would be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

V. B. REPORT OF MR. TARIQ SAYEED, CHAIRMAN OF G-77 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

40. The Chairman of the G-77 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries informed the Delegates of the various concerns of the Chamber, among which were:

a. The development of some institutional frameworks, which could facilitate financing in South-South trade;

b. The setting up of a trade fair authority;

c. Addressing the problems affecting landlocked developing countries;

d. The setting up of a trade information network;

e. The publication of a Compendium, which will serve as a readily available source for developing insights into the economy of each country and thereby enlarging the scope of cooperation.

41. He also emphasized the importance of the private sector in economic development. In conclusion, he recommended the strengthening of cooperation and coordination among all institutions, like G-77, NAM, UNCTAD and UNDP, in addressing crucial issues confronting Third World Countries, such as balance of payments problems, unemployment, inflation, mounting debt burden, among others.

42. The Meeting emphasized that while the role of the private sector in developing countries is important, the role of the informal sector should also be taken into account. The Meeting was informed that Guinea will host a workshop on this subject in April 1996.

43. The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of G-77 stated that they are coordinating with all regional and international groupings to address issues of economic cooperation. He also called for greater participation from developing countries in the series of meetings that will be undertaken by the Chamber.

44. The Meeting proposed that the involvement of the Chamber should not only be limited to the implementation stage, but also in the planning and review of the project.

VI. PREPARATION OF UNCTAD-IX

45. The Meeting noted the view that this UNCTAD IX will be critical in the light of the UN restructuring, and the future role of the "G-77 and China" forum in determining common negotiation positions for developing countries.

46. The Meeting was informed of the provisional arrangements for UNCTAD IX, currently being organized by South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs. Details were also provided on the parallel forums being organized complimentary to the main event, namely: Africa Connect, Symposium on Mineral Sector Investment and Development, NGO parallel Conference, and the Small and Medium Business Conference.

a. The Meeting stressed the importance developing countries attach to UNCTAD in relation to the post-Uruguay Round System, especially for identifying issues for future negotiations, technical assistance to developing countries and the consideration of the impact of the trading system on development.

b. The Meeting also stressed the importance of ECDC in the future work of UNCTAD. It is of the view that the globalization of the world economy renders ECDC a critical instrument for the effective participation of developing countries in the global economy. Towards this end, the IFCC-IX considered that UNCTAD should have a specific part of its work devoted to ECDC. In this respect, the IFCC-IX holds that this is best done by having a specific program with a cross-sectoral approach to ECDC and LDC questions in view of the interdependent nature of the issues involved.

47. The Meeting stressed the need for developing countries to utilize the occasion of UNCTAD IX, which will be held in South Africa, to secure benefits to development and forge outcomes, which would meet the challenge of minimizing the risks of marginalization and instability among nations.

48. The Chairman of the G-77 pointed out that the coordination of the G-77 for the UNCTAD IX corresponds to the Chapter of Geneva and stressed that all efforts shall be undertaken by that Chapter to achieve a common position. He pledged to address to the Chairman of the Geneva Chapter a statement on this particular.

49. In the context of the future work and orientation of UNCTAD, the meeting stressed the importance developing countries attached to UNCTAD and its work, especially in the post-Uruguay Round System. They attached great importance to its work for identifying issues for future negotiations, to technical assistance to developing countries in negotiations and its consideration of the impact of the trading system on development.

50. The Meeting proposed that the Group of 77 should formulate harmonized positions for the forthcoming UNCTAD-IX in order to address the common concerns and issues of developing countries such as trade and development, technology, industrialization, debt burden, market access, increased ODA flows, reduction of trade and tariff restrictions, and the negative impact of the WTO on the economies of least developed and developing countries.

51. The Coordinator of LDCs informed the meeting of the major points of concern of the LDCs that would be raised during UNCTAD-IX.

VII. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

52. The Meeting expressed its recommendation to pursue the holding of a United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and to push this initiative in the next UNGA Meeting. It was agreed that the G-77 should be urged to vigorously pursue this proposal.

VIII. FOURTH MEETING OF THE HEADS OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR ECDC

53. The Meeting took note of the Document entitled Directory of National Focal Points for ECDC.

IX. PEREZ-GUERRERO TRUST FUND FOR ECDC/TCDC

54. The Meeting noted that the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC is at present experiencing two difficulties:

a. The lack of a clear legal framework as a basis for constitution of the PGTF in view of its evolutionary stage resulting from a collection of deeds, resolutions, minutes of meetings of experts, declarations, aides-memoire, letters and memoranda.

b. The fact that a considerable amount of resources is allocated to the annual evaluation of project proposals by the Committee of Experts as compared to the allocations for feasibility studies.

55. The Chairman of the G-77 informed the Meeting about some proposals for structural changes to the operations of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund. The Meeting recommended that a written proposal be submitted for further consideration at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 to be held in New York in September 1996.

X. COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ECDC/TCDC

56. The Chairman of the Group of 77 in his statement noted that what is known as the Integration between TCDC and ECDC is the relation of the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA), which is a comprehensive action plan about the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) with Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). He observed that TCDC is in the process of being re-oriented taking into account the fundamental shifts that have occurred in the dynamics of global development cooperation. He recommended that development interventions should be focused on the following themes in order to increase the impact of development strategies:

- a. Trade and Investment
- b. Debt
- c. The Environment
- d. Poverty Alleviation

- e. Production and Employment
- f. Macroeconomic policy coordination
- g. Aid Management

57. The Meeting decided to forward the recommendations of the IFCC-IX to the Ministerial Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 scheduled to be held in September 1996, in New York.

58. The Meeting also agreed that the review of the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA) should take into account the areas identified by the TCDC.

XI. VENUE AND DATE OF IFCC-X

59. The Meeting requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 for 1997 to conduct the necessary consultations with the member states for the convening of the next IFCC Meeting to be held in Africa.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

60. The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee adopted its report at its last session.

XIII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

61. The Chairman of the Group of 77 expressed the gratitude of the participants to the Government and people of the Philippines for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to them. He also paid tribute to the Secretariat for the efficient conduct of the Conference.

62. The participants likewise expressed their appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Chairman of the Group of 77, H.E. Dr. Fernando Naranjo-Villalobos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, in pursuing the goals set by the IFCC.

63. The Chairman of the Meeting, Dr. Jaime S. Bautista, conveyed to the participants the felicitations of H.E. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines on the successful outcome of the Meeting and declared the Ninth IFCC closed.