

Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-X), Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 18 – 23 August 2001

Recommendations adopted by the Committee

SECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TRADE

The Committee recommended the following:

1. Ensure that obstacles to the development of South-South trade are removed, and adjust domestic regulations and structures so as to facilitate trade among themselves. The creation of business-friendly environment, with a transparent and predictable regulatory framework, will greatly facilitate development of their trade ties.
2. Strengthen regular exchange and wide dissemination of trade information and trading opportunities among developing countries through greater access to and use of information technology instruments. In this context, establish a South-South trade information network. Requests the ITC to assist in this regard.
3. Organize regular meetings of the private sector with the government sector to exchange views on trade policies and measures; conclude trade agreements, investment promotion and protection agreements, and avoidance of double taxation; organize trade and investment fairs;
4. Explore ways and means to develop better and direct transport links and other infrastructures among developing countries, to facilitate payments arrangements in the light of experiences of developing countries, to and overcome production constraints and bottlenecks.
5. Developing countries will promote initiatives in favour of the Least Developed Countries to enable them to participate effectively in South-South trade cooperation and to this end, help these countries build their national capacities in the context of South-South cooperation.
6. Reinvigorate the Global System of Trade Preferences Among Developing Countries (GSTP) to promote further South-South trade: (a) expedite the domestic process of ratifying tariff commitments of GSTP participants. (b) rationalize the process of negotiations for a third round of GSTP negotiations. (c) invites the GSTP Sub-Committee to update the schedules of tariff concessions and develop proposals for a framework aimed at negotiations in a third round. UNCTAD is also invited to contribute to this process.
7. Requests the secretariats of UNCTAD, the WTO and the ITC to intensify programs on capacity building, covering international trade and other economic agreements. Priority attention should be accorded to such fields as adaptation of their domestic legislation and regulations, including customs tariffs, development of legal expertise on international settlement of trade disputes, product standardization, and harmonization of customs procedures. Developing countries in the process of acceding to multilateral trade agreements deserve special assistance in this regard.

8. Requests the Chairman of the Group of 77 to explore with the Geneva chapter of the Group of 77 the establishment of a WTO Law Center for the Group of 77 to assist members in making appropriate legislative adjustments for complying with their obligations and asserting their rights in multilateral trade agreements, such as trade in services and intellectual property rights. In addition, developing countries should harness the legal talents available in the South and develop a roster of legal luminaries on trade policy matters.
9. Reiterates the necessity of coordinating the position of developing countries prior to the WTO Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha. In accordance with the Havana summit decisions, such coordination is necessary to ensure that the interests and concerns of developing countries are fully taken into account.
10. Reaffirms, in this regard, its full support to the ongoing efforts exerted by the Geneva chapter of the Group of 77.

FINANCE

The Committee recommended that:

Recognizing the need for collective efforts of the South in the financial and monetary domain, and in particular as concerns the need for reform of the international financial architecture and South's unity in acting within the Bretton Woods institutions in defense of its common goals and interests:

1. In view of the periodic turbulence and crises in international financial markets, which usually have detrimental and destabilizing effects on the economies of developing countries, new and urgent South-South initiatives are needed to promote stability in these markets and to cope with instabilities when these occur. Initiatives should be encouraged aimed at building networks for multilateral financial cooperation to match the increasing interdependence among developing countries. These initiatives may include regional financial monitoring mechanisms, pooling national reserves among central banks, and arrangements in the field of regional surveillance, information-sharing and early warning.
2. In view of much higher costs of capital that the developing countries have to pay as compared to the developed ones, and the inequities of this situation, close attention should be paid to improving the credit risk assessment from the point of view of developing countries, and collective action taken in this direction. In this regard, the Committee noted the proposals on the economic and social development in the New African Initiative adopted in Lusaka at the OAU Summit in July 2001, and expressed the hope that this initiative would be a useful model.
3. Monetary cooperation programmes should be adopted, where appropriate, within the context of regional and sub-regional integration schemes, including the use of national currencies in transactions and mutual trade.
4. Liberalization in the capital account of the balance of payment should be accompanied by the provision of technical assistance to developing countries so as to enhance their financial regulations prior to starting the removal of restrictions on capital account, including in this respect cooperation with the international institutions like IMF, etc.

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee recommended that:

Noting the strategic importance of knowledge and technology for the development of the countries of the South in the 21st century:

1. In the coming period and in their common efforts to advance their scientific and technological capabilities, the developing countries should pursue the following overall strategies:
 - a) Develop, sustain and utilize local capacities and leadership in efforts to advance science and technology;
 - b) Mobilize the best and most relevant S&T in the South and elsewhere to address critical social and economic problems;
 - c) Build a strong case for supporting the development of S&T in the South;
 - d) Establish and strengthen centres of excellence in S&T among Southern universities and research institutions;
 - e) Share innovative and successful experiences in S&T in developing countries, including notable success stories in least developed countries;
 - f) Mobilize eminent expatriate scientist of developing countries' descent working and living abroad;
 - g) Engage the scientific leadership in the South in providing authoritative and independent objective opinions on current scientific issues of critical importance to the policy and decision-making in developing countries;
 - h) Seek the active participation of the private sector in S&T development.
2. Set up a South-South mechanism to link up with the G8 Dot force for exploring digital opportunities and in support of actions to bridge the digital gap.
3. Initiate South-South exchange of information and experiences on work undertaken to develop adequate legal frameworks at the national level, aiming at guaranteeing an appropriate use of cyberspace, including aspects such as the protection of data and privacy, in order to minimize the risks and uncertainties generated by the use of ICTs. Such exchange and cooperation could play an important role in minimizing pernicious effects that the application of these technologies might generate, and in encouraging growing uses of diverse electronic transactions among developing countries.
4. Promote South-South cooperation that could stimulate development of high tech SMEs in the field of ICT.
5. In the context of the preparation of the second part of the Information Society Summit, to take place in Tunis in 2005, request the Group of 77 to set up a working party to prepare a joint platform for this Summit and to assure that the interests of the developing countries are fully taken into account.
6. Establish centres of excellence for S&T capacity building in the South, including in new areas such as digital and information technologies, prepare directories of R&D institutions and initiate their networking for exchange of information and experience, and set up of S&T forums comprising academia, government and private sector.

7. Establish regional centres for technology, development and transfer, with the objective of creating synergies between public and private investment, equipped with contemporary high tech management tools and serving the technological needs of all conventions, agreements, codes and programmes of the UNCLOS/UNCED process in a regional context.
8. A number of developing countries have developed, both in the public and private sectors, knowledge, expertise and know-how in various areas of technological endeavour, including information technologies, biotechnologies, pharmaceuticals, space technologies, renewable energies, etc. This provides a possibility of widening the digital and technological gap even among the South while at the same time provides a new and rapidly growing potential for South-South cooperation in the field of technology which should be actively pursued. Finance for such cooperation, however, remains a problem. Some developed countries having expressed interest in triangular cooperation, they could be approached to finance provision of technological expertise by a developing country to another developing country, or countries. This option should be explored further and donor countries should be approached to provide finance for such triangular efforts, which could have significant catalytic and multiplier effects.
9. Involve more closely in the activities of the Group of 77 those institutions, like TWAS, that have successfully mobilized S&T scholars and institutions from the South in support of development and of building high-level scientific and technical capacities for addressing real-life problems in the South.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC)

The Committee recommended that:

Noting the need to tap into the growing knowledge pool and development experience, including in institutional capacities and management experiences, available in many countries of the South that can contribute to building capacity in other developing countries, including the least developed countries:

Emphasizing the South-South cooperation be utilized to ensure transfer of experiences in policy formulation and implementation, institutional capacities and innovative collaborative frameworks and management experiences and best practices aside imparting training.

1. Invite those developing countries with well developed TCDC policy and practice, to intensify their efforts in making such experience and assistance available to those developing countries in need, and in particular the least developed countries.
2. Invite the Special Unit for TCDC, in close collaboration with the Chairman of the Group of 77, to expand the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) into an internet-based information system to give greater visibility to development experts, R&D institutions and other technical capacities in the South. In this context, encourage the Unit to include in the WIDE platform a web-based South-South knowledge and technology bank in collaboration with relevant Southern institutions.
3. Encourage the Special Unit to continue efforts to identify, compile and disseminate, through WIDE, Southern successful practices. In this connection, request all TCDC/ECDC national focal points, regional, sub-regional groupings, UN organizations and all other relevant institutions to provide to the Unit information on such successful practices.

4. Encourage the Special Unit to continue to develop on a pilot basis new models of TCDC/ECDC such as triangular arrangements, tripartite R&D arrangements, business-to-business forums, web-based South-South trade centers, in collaboration with relevant UN organizations and relevant institutions in the South.
5. Request the Special Unit to initiate the production of a *SOUTH REPORT*, in close collaboration with the Chairman of the Group of 77 and involving various Southern institutions, as called for by the South Summit, to systematically document and analyze empirical data on South-South trade and investment flows, technical assistance flows, cooperation in science and technology and knowledge.
6. Request the Administrator of UNDP to take adequate measures to enable the Special Unit for TCDC to contribute effectively to the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the South Summit. In this context, request the UNDP Executive Board to consider increasing allocation of resources for TCDC.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Committee:

Stressed its concern with the level of food insecurity and under-nutrition afflicting vast proportions of populations in numerous developing countries and noted the slow progress towards halving hunger by the year 2015, as envisaged in the World Food Summit held in 1996.

In this connection, welcomed the establishment of a Trust Fund in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to be financed by voluntary contributions, initially for an amount of US\$ 500 million, to serve as a catalyst for enhancing food production and improving access to food in developing countries, in particular in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) and Small island Developing States, and also for the prevention, control and eradication of trans-boundary pests and diseases of plants and animals.

Also considered that the mobilization of such resources would serve, in addition to the aforementioned, to strengthen the promotion of technology transfer through South-South cooperation as well as to enhance FAO's capacity to assist member countries in preparing feasibility studies of bankable projects to increase national, bilateral and multilateral financing for agricultural and food security projects and programmes in developing countries.

Urged the member countries of the donor community to contribute generously to the Trust Fund and to participate at the highest level of Heads of State and Government in the *World Food Summit: five years later* to be held in Rome from 5 to 9 November 2001.

Took note of two important ongoing FAO programmes, namely the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), launched in 1994, and the new FAO Partnership Programme for Technical Cooperation among developing countries. In this regard, the Committee requested FAO to continue deploying efforts aimed at the full implementation of these programmes.

Was informed of the South-South Cooperation components in the operational modalities of both programmes and called for their widespread dissemination, as cost-effective mechanisms for the benefit of developing countries.

Reiterated its recommendations regarding the following:

- In respect to fisheries, cooperative action among countries under the terms of paragraph 32 of the Caracas Programme of Action.
- In respect of augmentation of food production, cooperative action among countries under the terms of paragraph 29 of the Caracas Programme of Action.
- Establishment of temporary support mechanisms for local farmers, allowing them to adapt to the negative impact of the process of trade globalization.
- Recognition of the role played by women in the rural development of the developing countries.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

The Committee:

Reaffirmed the continued urgency to promote industrialization as a dynamic instrument for rapid and sustained economic and social development, and as a key contributor to the eradication of poverty and the creation of productive employment in the developing countries. In this connection:

- Policy incentives should be devised with a view to encouraging technological upgrading and skill formation to enhance competitiveness of the small and medium scale enterprises.
- Small-scale enterprises and micro industries play a crucial role in the economies of developing countries, and because of their small size and limited financial resources, they are incapable of withstanding the intense competition in the environment of globalization. Therefore, developing countries should encourage formation of industrial districts and clusters with certain common facilities to enable these enterprises to acquire economies of scale and enhance their collective efficiency.
- Developing countries should support through appropriate policy measures the financial institutions in the public and private sectors for establishing venture capital funds to create knowledge-based industries.
- Developing countries should intensify South-South cooperation particularly in terms of promoting transfer of technology and industrial collaboration among themselves and thus strengthen their industrial capacities in order to meet the challenge of globalization.

Called upon the international community, including the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations, and in particular UNIDO, to promote further South-South Cooperation in the field of industrialization with a view to making a proper contribution to the implementation of the Havana Programme of Action.

Strongly supported the key role of UNIDO, as a provider of specialized technical cooperation services and as a global forum for supporting and promoting industrial development, in promoting sustainable industrial development in developing countries through its integrated programme approach and other activities. In this context, UNIDO is requested to:

- Provide technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to increase the competitiveness and collective efficiency of their small and medium scale industries.
- Formulate technical cooperation programmes geared at improving product quality, skill formation, and development of multi-purpose and multi-products industrial plants and productivity of SMEs.
- Devise appropriate programme activities to enhance South-South cooperation in various industrial sectors, particularly informatics and knowledge-based industries.
- Develop further its new initiatives on trade facilitation, technology transfer, environmental protection, and in the area of energy for sustainable development, which are in line with South-South Cooperation priorities and would enable UNIDO to better use its comparative advantages. The donor community is called upon to provide adequate funding for UNIDO's programmes.
- Actively participate in the follow-up of the decisions and recommendations of the Havana Summit held in April 2000 as well as the Havana Programme of Action with a view to promoting South-South industrial cooperation.
- Organize a seminar/workshop to identify strategies and to evolve an action plan for follow-up of Havana Summit and IFCC-X recommendations.

The Committee also recommended that:

- Developed countries be urged to provide enhanced financial resources to multilateral organizations like UNIDO engaged in the task of building sustainable industrial capacities in developing countries.
- Given the existing inter-linkages of globalization and interdependence of all countries, the growing marginalization of developing countries in the world economy is a threat to the long-term peace and prosperity of international community. Developed countries should be, therefore, called upon to seriously promote transfer of technology and industrial collaborations with developing countries to fully integrate the latter in the global economy.
- Transnational Corporations (TNCs) operating in developing countries should be encouraged in accordance with national legislations to:
 - a. Pay more attention to protection of environment and issues like poverty eradication, integration of women, education, etc., in the host countries;
 - b. Establish operational linkages with local firms to build indigenous capacities and create employment.
- The effectiveness of G77 institutions like South Center, Chambers of Commerce, Global System of Trade Preferences, etc. should be enhanced to accelerate the pace of South-South cooperation with a view to achieving more tangible and perceptible results.
- Congnisant of the efforts developed by UNIDO for the African Industrialization, recommended the continuation and intensification of these efforts crucial to the development aspirations of the continent particularly involving regional and sub-regional cooperation. In this context particular attention should be paid to

support the industrial needs of African countries with special consideration on the African LDCs.

ENERGY

The Committee:

Bearing in mind that energy is central to achieving the goals of sustainable development, and that one third of the world population, mostly living in developing countries, continue to lack access to energy. The committee affirmed the need for sustainable patterns of energy provision, distribution and consumption and to increase cooperation in this field, including South-South cooperation.

Took note of the section on energy and sustainable development of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York on 16-27 April 2001, and recommended the early implementation of actions identified in this report on the key issues of (a) accessibility of energy, (b) energy efficiency, (c) renewable energy, (d) advanced fossil fuel technology, (e) nuclear energy technologies, (f) rural energy, and (g) energy and transport; as well as on the overarching issues of (i) research and development, (ii) capacity-building, (iii) technology transfer, (iv) making markets work effectively for sustainable development, and (v) multi-stakeholder participation and public participation .

Likewise, it requested that due consideration should be given to the interests of developing countries when these issues are examined in the preparation of the Tenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this context, the Committee noted that regional cooperation endeavors identified in the Report may require sub-regional, regional, inter-regional and international support.

Urged developing countries to explore joint projects and joint ventures the production, transportation and distribution of energy, it also urged developing countries to examine joint research and development, and exchange of information, in particular in the areas of renewable energy, advanced fossil fuel technology, and clean energy technologies.

RAW MATERIALS AND COMMODITIES

The following areas of collaboration and support in the field of commodities would be required in the context of South-South co-operation and international assistance. The committee recommended:

- To intensify co-operation and international support for supporting diversification efforts of developing countries, including institutional and human capacities in the agricultural, industrial processing and marketing fields. In this regard, diversification strategies should seek to increase production for regional markets and for global exports both vertically by developing value added products within the traditional commodities, as well as horizontally in the multiplying range of commodities in non-traditional sectors. There are capacities and valuable experiences in developing countries, which can be harnessed to achieve broader object of commodity diversification. Strengthening of capacities of developing countries in developing niche products such as horticultural, meat, fish and organic products and handicrafts as well as cultural products should be supported;
- Support for strengthening and enhancing the productive capacities of developing countries through stimulating investment, human resources development, enhancing

technological capacities and building their physical infrastructure including strengthening their research and development capacities;

- Encouraging private sector initiatives and supporting the establishment of partnership with foreign companies as, *inter alia*, a vehicle for transfer of production and marketing skills and technologies;
- Supporting efforts in building institutional, regulatory and technical capacities to access to and make use of modern risk management techniques and tools. In this connection, exchange of experiences and technical capacities between developing countries should be encouraged and supported;
- Assistance in developing institutional and human capacities for quality control and certification including adherence to international standards, guidelines and recommendations when applying sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other technical standards including HACCP.
- Support the integration of developing countries in integrating their national economics and their production, supply and trading capacities as well as their joint ventures building joint services and infrastructure as well as capacities to support private sector initiatives including warehouse receipt systems.
- Support the activities of the Common Fund for Commodities by strengthening its Second Account for intensifying its support of developing countries in the above areas.
- Stressed that commodity price instability and volatility undermine prospects for steady economic growth in developing countries and need to be addressed. Therefore, the committee calls upon donor countries to provide international assistance to this end, including through financing and strengthening the Common Fund for Commodities.
- Recommended that a study be made on the possibility of promoting counter-trade arrangement for trade in commodities among the countries of the South having limited foreign currencies.
- Relevant international development institutions particularly the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNCTAD, the World Bank should collaborate closely and use their complementarities and synergies to encourage support South-South co-operation in the above and other relevant areas of commodity diversification and development.

In the light of the recommendation contained in the Havana Programme of Action regarding the revitalization of the role of various G-77 Action Committees in several fields of cooperation as provided for in the Caracas Programme of Action, the Committee (IFCC-X) was informed of progress made by the Action Committee on Raw Materials (ACRM), since its establishment in 1989 including the arrangements by the Government of Nigeria to host the second Meeting of the ACRM during 2002. In this connection, the Committee (IFCC-X) commended the efforts deployed by Nigeria as host country of the Action Committee, and invited member countries of the G-77 to participate in the activities of this Action Committee.

PEREZ-GUERRERO TRUST FUND FOR ECDC/TCDC (PGTF)

1. The Chairman of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), Dr. Eduardo Praselj, introduced the subject and provided information on the operational and financial performance of PGTF during its fourteen years of operation (1986-

2000), including its impact on cooperative activities among developing countries. The Chairman explained that this accumulated experience had proved that PGTF is a viable and useful mechanism for providing catalytic financial support to South-South cooperation. However, its scope was limited as a result of the modest size of its core capital (US\$ 5 million) and elaborated on the need for expanding its resources, in line with the recommendation made in the South Summit.

2. The Committee commended the work of PGTF and expressed its full support to the Fund's activities.

3. The Chairman informed on the options available for expanding PGTF resources, including contributions to its core capital and co-financing with other institutions. As a result of appeals for contributions made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 following a decision by the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group, PGTF had received 16 contributions from 13 member countries, namely Mauritius, Pakistan, Singapore (two separate contributions), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (three separate contributions), Cyprus, Thailand, Malaysia, Algeria, India, the Philippines, China, and Egypt. Total contributions from these countries amount to US\$30,000. He also informed that Venezuela had pledged US\$1 million to PGTF.

4. The Committee agreed that PGTF was a useful financial mechanism for supporting South-South cooperation and called upon member countries for additional contributions. During the meeting of the Committee, the following four member countries pledged contributions to PGTF: South Africa, Tunisia, Nigeria (two separate contributions), and Tanzania.

5. With regard to co-financing of projects, UNIDO indicated its support to PGTF. In this context, UNIDO announced that a joint project with G-77 had been specially designed for co-financing G-77 activities through the PGTF, and that an initial allocation of funds had been made. Preliminary discussions are underway to this same end with other institutions.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The IFCC-X guided by the support lent by the South Summit Declaration of G-77 held in Havana in April 2000 to the creation of the World Solidarity Fund, invites the United Nations Secretary-General to take appropriate measures for the establishment of the Fund as a mechanism contributing to the efforts of poverty eradication in developing countries.

2. The Committee recalling the Declaration of the South Summit reiterated that it firmly rejects the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterated the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We, therefore, call on the international community neither to recognize these measures nor apply them.

3. The meeting underlined the significant importance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002 for the review and appraisal of the progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the consideration of further measures to promote sustainable development. It also recognized the need for developing countries to develop a common position and understanding to ensure their active and constructive participation in the summit and its preparatory processes. The meeting, therefore, recommended that the annual meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 to be held in New York in September 2001 consider the

modalities for convening a Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 prior to the summit for that purpose. The importance of South-South environmental and sustainable development initiatives were also underlined. The meeting invited UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNEP, GEF, and the World Bank, among other institution, to continue to support South-South programmes and projects in this field and to make recommendations to WSSD and its preparatory process relating to cooperation among developing countries.

4. The meeting emphasized the importance of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010 held in Brussels in May 2001, and welcomed the General Assembly resolution calling upon the international community to support the implementation of the Programme of Action

5. The countries of the South are increasingly involved with each other in innovative forms, specially on concrete project, at sub-regional, regional and interregional levels. In this regard, the Committee took note of, in particular the Agreed Conclusions of the South Summit on implementation of South-South projects. In view of the progress achieved by a number of sub-regional, regional cooperation in the South, the Committee recommended the following guidelines for effective implementation by countries while undertaking South-South projects, and also to assist countries within existing frameworks to achieve concrete outcome:

- Countries- in consulting among themselves- would decide which broad area, e.g. agriculture, industry, social development, a particular country would be interested to act as the 'lead country'.
- If more than one country expresses interest to act as 'lead country', they can. However, in such a situation, the chair of the relevant sub-regional or regional framework would undertake consultation among those countries to ensure that countries streamline their collective leadership within the particular sector. This is to ensure that even under two countries in the lead, effective cooperation would follow.
- Lead country(/ies) will then identify specific projects, in consultation with other interested countries, will provide necessary projects briefs. Lead country proposing the project(s) will also specifically identify the implementation agency/ institution/ organization for specific project(s). A brief profile of the implementation entity, e.g. agency/ institution/ organization, should be also circulated to countries for consideration.
- Lead country(/ies) will also indicate under which (i) broad sector and subsequently (ii) sub-sector a specific project will fall.
- Subsequently, profile of project(s) under a broad sector and its implementation entity(ies) will be circulated among all countries within the grouping, requesting them to indicate which specific project(s) they would be interested to participate in.
- As countries indicate their interest for specific projects, a compilation will be made.
- Lead country(ies) will then start coordinating with interested countries on implementation of specific projects.
- As countries make reasonable progress in implementation of a project on the basis of each others' resources, capabilities, private sector, civil society, regional banks, multilateral actors, donor governments could be approached for long-term finance and other forms of support.

6. The meeting welcomed the decision of the South Summit to establish the South/South Health Care Delivery Programme (SSHDP) to assist the Health Sector of needy members of the G-77. It also welcomes in particular the efforts of Cuba, Libya and Nigeria to provide funding and medical personnel for the Programme. It also welcomed the offers of South Africa to provide drugs, medical equipments and logistic support for the Programme. It

appealed to other members of the G-77 who have the capacity to do so to contribute and support the Programme as appropriate.

7. The meeting welcomed the action of the recipient countries who have indicated their requirement for medical personnel, medicines equipments ambulances etc. Noting that preparations for the programme have reached advanced stages the meeting recommended to Ad Hoc Working Group under the Chairmanship of G-77 in New York, that appropriate action for its fast tracking for immediate take off on the following: completion of outstanding administrative arrangements; prompt consideration of proposals from the SSDHP, by WHO and UNICEF who were approached and had promised to provide logistic support, guidance data etc.; and indication of form of support promised by Algeria and Botswana.

8. The meeting noted the laudable objectives of the programme and enjoined other members of the Group to support the initiative.

9. The committee also recommended: (1) increased sharing of experiences of countries' - at sub-regional, and regional levels – in poverty eradication, education, health care, population, women and children – developed indigenously involving innovative local knowledge, skills and resources, including those involving civil society and other sectors; (2) linking of innovative arrangements, including the centers of excellence, in the South in all the areas of social development for greater utilization of southern knowledge and experience; (3) greater utilization of existing arrangements at various levels and identifying specific activities to address emerging challenges in the South, including those in public health; and (4) compilation and dissemination of updated information and expertise within the South.

- **Tehran Consensus on South-South Cooperation**

We, the participants in the Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 18 to 22 August 2001, which marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action, in reaffirming the relevance and the validity of the various declarations and programmes of action subsequently adopted by the Group of 77 and in reiterating our firm commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Havana Declaration and Programme of Action, have resolved to move forcefully and urgently forward on the following five objectives of common concern to the developing world in the context of South-South cooperation, and to that effect, call upon all partners in the international development effort to extend genuine support to achieving those objectives.

1. *Consolidating South-South platform*

While we note the increasing need and potential for South-South cooperation and significant progress in a number of areas, we are fully cognizant of problems, gaps and challenges that exist. We also recognize the enormous potentialities, both unrealized and untapped, in many domains that need to be harnessed. The gap between the set objectives and agreed actions and the actual implementation should be effectively bridged.

The situation has evolved over the last two decades, and new challenges, issues and conditions have emerged. A realistic, objective assessment of the Group's plans and programmes of action, and the status of their implementation, should be undertaken with a view to consolidating them into an updated platform to be submitted for consideration and action by the High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in 2003 in accordance with the Havana Summit decision. To this end, all necessary measures should be taken to provide the member States of the Group of 77 with a strategic overview of the new global environment and its interlinkages as well as of changes in developing countries that are of relevance to South-South cooperation today, including the new areas where such cooperation can be fruitfully undertaken.

2. *Building stronger South institutions at the global level*

The coordination of policy and joint negotiating positions on major issues on the international agenda are essential, and require adequate intellectual and technical support, internal coordination and a commensurate preparatory process. The Group of 77, drawing on its recent successes in major international processes, should undertake to pursue the legitimate concerns and demands of the South equally vigorously at the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg Conferences, all of which will address vital issues for all countries and peoples of the South. The Group should continue to consolidate its new sense of assertiveness as a major credible and potent negotiating force.

South-South cooperation at the global level requires adequate and structured institutional support. Immediate steps should be taken to expand and strengthen the Secretariat of the Group of 77 in New York in order to provide greater support to the activities of the Group. The process of institution building should be pursued in earnest as one of the principal building blocs of more effective South-South cooperation in the global arena. First and foremost, this requires the South to mobilize adequate financial and skilled human resources to support its own institutions.

3. *Bridging the knowledge and information gap*

Easily accessible empirical data and a global overview of South-South cooperation are lacking. This information and knowledge gap needs to be closed urgently, which calls, as a matter of priority, for the creation of a collective capacity, *inter alia*, through the launching of a “South Report” on the state of South-South cooperation as the basic reference and major policy and analytical tool for South-South cooperation.

4. *Building broad-based partnerships*

South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, based on their common objectives and solidarity. It should be broadly based, involving not only Governments but also the private sector, academic institutions, civil society organizations, various innovative arrangements, including those in the domain of arts and culture, indeed the common citizens and the people at large, as well as South institutions, groupings and other organizations that work within and between developing countries. New forms and partnerships for assuring such mobilization and broad participation should be encouraged and practiced, drawing as much as possible on new information and communication technologies.

5. *Mobilizing global support for South-South cooperation*

South-South cooperation has suffered from benign neglect by the international community. The overall policy has been fragmented, with limited financial resources allocated in support of such cooperation. For an effective, meaningful support, the international community, including the United Nations system and other major international institutions as well as the donor community, is urged to reexamine their approach and policy, and provide vigorous catalytic support, including requisite financial resources to all forms of South-South cooperation. In this context, the role of the United Nations Development Programme in supporting South-South cooperation and in advocating a more inclusive globalization should be reaffirmed. Active support for various institutions of the South, including research institutions, is equally important towards expanding the Group’s institutional and negotiating capacity.

Public opinion needs to be more aware of the purposes and value of South-South cooperation. It is proposed that an International Decade on South-South Cooperation and a United Nations day for South-South Cooperation should be launched in order to contribute to increased awareness and to generate political dynamism and visibility that accompany “other decades” in the international arena.

Message of Appreciation to the Host Country

This meeting (IFCC-X), taking place in this very auspicious year of “Dialogue among Civilizations”, initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, has reflected both the letter and spirit for mutually reinforcing the South-South cooperation and relations with our developed partners.