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Agra July 5-6, 2020

Communiqué



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1. We, the G23 leaders, met in Agra for the 2020 Summit. In a spirit of open dialogue, we discussed the most pressing issues

8. We applaud and support the permanent Civil Society Council of worldwide civil society organizations, which meets at two-year intervals and welcomed its President to our meetings for the first time.

9. The reforming of the role and mandate of the Bretton Woods Institutions must be continued. Amongst some of the pressing issues, their actions must become even more transparent and their decision-making even more accountable. The addition of two new seats on the executive boards of the Wo

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23. The WTO is in urgent need of redesign in certain critical aspects. Clearer processes of consultation and mechanisms for transparency and accountability are needed. We encourage the WTO to provide enhanced technical assistance to developing countries in order for them to participate more effectively in multilateral trade negotiations, trade opportunities, and the dispute settlement mechanism.

24. The current WTO Dispute Resolution Understanding is too technical, costly, and lengthy for developing countries to participate. We have agreed to promote a Small Claims Court in the WTO, as an affordable alternative, for least developed countries, to the dispute settlement process. Without the handicap of technical complexity and the burden of high costs, a Small Claims Court would ensure that all WTO Members have access to suitable and expedited means of settling disputes. A G23 Task Force will be set up to study the design of a Small Claims Court.

25. With respect to Intellectual Property, we have agreed to work on an extension of flexible rules on compulsory licensing, with its associated provisions on privacy. We endorse the proposal to establish an independent Bio-Piracy Agency to work in close cooperation with Interpol, to protect aboriginal and tribal traditional intellectual property. Progress on technical assistance, the Small Claims Court and Intellectual Property, combined with recent landmark movement resolving long standing grievances in Agriculture and Textiles, set the stage for the first New Round in 25 years. We have agreed to direct our Trade Ministers to initiate negotiations, under WTO auspices, including inter alia, Investment, Biotechnology Products, and Immigration.

26. Effective collective action is urgently needed to remedy global environmental threats. In terms of the security of individuals, threats from environmental degradation are equivalent in significance to threats from armed conflict. We have agreed to designate specific military forces as “Green Helmets” to deal with imminent environmental emergencies. We endorse the UN Trusteeship Council as the authority for deployment decisions.

27. Various international organizations have been under considerable and conflicting pressures to address environmental issues, raised by civil society interests, among others. To provide a more adequate forum for the development and enforcement of environmental standards, we have given serious consideration to creating a GEM. The Global Environmental Mechanism will consolidate UNEP, the three clusters of the Secretariats of MEAs and the functions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This mechanism should significantly reduce costs and streamline the current uncoordinated international environmental bureaucracy. The UN Trusteeship Council, having completed its task of management of the process of de colonization, should assume the mandate of coordination of the mechanism.

28. World population is growing fast and it is expected to grow to nearly 10 billion by 2050. Furthermore, all of this growth will be in the poorer countries. Water shortages plague every continent, with disastrous impact in poorer countries. More than 1.5 billion people lack safe drinking water. Half the world lacks adequate sanitation and 80% of all diseases in the developing world are water-related. Agricultural land is becoming brackish worldwide.

29. If present trends continue, two out of every three people on Earth will live in “water-stressed” regions by 2025. To prevent world water crises, and consequent mass migrations, disease, and wars, we are determined to pursue changes where appropriate in agricultural practices and water pricing. We must invest more in desalination, reforestation, and watershed management. We have pledged to increase our ODA resources for water related investments. We urge the World Bank’s Water Investment Facility to accelerate its investment of the \$40 billion Trust Fund established last year. We commit to energetic efforts to secure treaties and cooperative agreements on water rights.

30. Accelerated global warming has had a significant impact on all of the Earth's ecosystems in recent years. Global



