

G-15 leaders urge developing nations to link up

# South must close

to accelerate growth  
ranks

From  
Ahiruddin Attan

DAKAR (Senegal), Mon. — The G-15 leaders ended their third annual summit today calling on the South to look to itself, not the recession-hit North, to accelerate development and growth.

This should be done by recognising the need for South-South strategies and by remaining committed to every economic project launched by the G-15.

In a joint communique, the leaders said the need for developing countries to look within — or “think South” as put by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir ~~Mohtamad~~ — is obvious in the light of the prolonged recession in the North.

Underlining the need for the South to consolidate their views, the leaders agreed that the South should speak in one voice at all United Nations forums as well as at other international forums such as the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in May and the Global Environment Facility meeting at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, next month.

This is because despite the end of the Cold War, the concerns and priorities of developing countries continue to be denied adequate consideration in global negotiations and decision-making.

“International dialogues and co-operation tends to be fashioned on North-North and East-West lines and according to an agenda that reflects military imperatives and security concerns,” the communique said.

The 14-page communique was issued by the nine heads of government/state who attended the summit. They are Dr Mahathir; Senegalese President Abdou Diouf; Brazil acting President Itamar Franco; Egyptian

President Hosni Mubarak; Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao; Jamaican President James Patterson; Nigerian President Gen Ibrahim Babangida; and Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe.

Having said this, the leaders called on the North to hold dialogues with the South to eliminate the imbalances and uncertainties in the global economic system.

Persistent debt crises, volatile interest rates, reduced capital flow, deteriorating terms of trade and mounting protectionism have combined to result in a net transfer of financial resources from South to North and a restriction of market access in the North on exports from developing countries.

The G-15 also urged industrialised countries to further liberalise trade in response to the measures taken by an increasing number of developing countries to open their economies and liberalise their trade regimes.

They also urged the European Community and the United States to overcome their political difficulties and settle their differences in the coming weeks to enable the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to resume in Geneva.

It said the tariff and non-tariff barriers have also had an adverse impact on trade in developing countries, particularly in primary commodities.

“In this connection, we are deeply concerned over the recent action of one developed country to introduce eco-labelling on tropical timber products.

“Such action underscores again the need to avert introducing unjustified and arbitrary measures that ad-

## Commitment to GSTP talks:

FROM PAGE ONE

versely affect trade especially when consultations at the multi-lateral level are being undertaken.”

On South-South co-operation, the leaders reiterated their commitment and support for the second round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries, launched last November in Teheran which has an important role to play in the improvement of trade and market access among developing countries.

They said they are also committed to having closer and more regular consultations among themselves with a view to harmonising positions on international questions and development.

PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 2. COL 5