

24/02/2003

Delegates to adopt declaration today

PRIME MINISTER Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for a Business Council for Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is one of the resolutions included in the draft declaration for the movement's Business Forum.

The 10-point declaration is expected to be adopted by some 700 delegates of the Business Forum today.

It is learnt that a working secretariat to organise programmes and activities for the council may also be adopted.

Besides calling upon Governments of NAM member countries to proactively engage their business communities as partners-in-development, the Declaration of NAM Business Forum is also set to call on member countries to support initiatives of their respective private sectors.

The declaration calls for the development of investment promotion policies, which correspond to the respective national priorities of NAM member countries.

These policies include technology-sharing and transfer, infrastructure development, job creation, and the diversification of exports and markets.

The Business Forum also calls for the international community to support and encourage efforts of developing nations to promote foreign direct investment strategies for the creation of a favourable investment climate.

Besides calling on both governments and the private sector to accelerate the use of electronic commerce to facilitate trade and investment linkages, delegates also urge that trade and business matters should also be included in the NAM Summit agenda.

In adopting the Declaration, the Business Forum delegates recognised the need for an action-oriented programme of practical solutions to be implemented in a reasonable period of time.

The delegates want the Declaration be submitted and circulated as part of the official documents of the 13th NAM Summit.