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Macroeconomic policy questions: International financial system and development**Letter dated 11 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you on behalf of the informal Global Governance Group (3G), comprising the following States Members of the United Nations: the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica, the Principality of Liechtenstein, Malaysia, the Principality of Monaco, New Zealand, Panama, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of San Marino, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay, a document entitled, "Strengthening the Framework for G-20 Engagement of Non-Members" (see annex).

On behalf of the 3G, I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Vanu Gopala **Menon**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Strengthening the Framework for G-20 Engagement of Non-members

1. The global economic crisis has underscored the need for more effective global governance mechanisms for economic policy coordination. The G-20 represents a significant step in that regard. The G-20 process and the swift, decisive actions that it brought about helped to avert a global economic depression in the last year. For the G-20's deliberations to be translated into effective actions on a global scale, they will need to be more consultative, inclusive and transparent. This will require the development of appropriate mechanisms to engage and consult a wider range of countries.

2. In this regard, the informal Global Governance Group (3G)¹ would like to propose the following approach for strengthening the framework of engagement between the G-20 and non-G-20 members:

- The United Nations is the only global body with universal participation and unquestioned legitimacy. The G-20 process should recognize and reflect this reality. The G-20 process and its actions and decisions should complement and strengthen the United Nations.
- It is important that the G-20 engages with the United Nations and its Member States through predictable and regular channels, including consultations with the wider membership before G-20 Summits. This will allow all States, especially smaller States, which constitute the majority of United Nations Members, to raise issues of concern to them and have their voices heard. In addition, the hosts of the G-20 Summits should provide the rest of the United Nations membership with an update after the meetings.
- The participation of the United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations Sherpa at G-20 Summits and preparatory meetings, respectively, should be formalized. While the Secretary-General cannot represent our individual national positions, he is nevertheless in a position to convey the broad sense of the membership.
- There should be sufficient flexibility in the G-20 process to provide for the participation of non-G-20 members in discussions on specialized issues. It could take on a "variable geometry" configuration to allow non-G-20 States to participate in Ministerial gatherings and other working groups involving senior officials/experts on issues of specific concern to them. Variable geometry has been practised in many multilateral settings and the 3G subscribes to it in its approach.

¹ Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Kingdom of Bahrain, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Principality of Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Principality of Monaco, New Zealand, Panama, Republic of the Philippines, State of Qatar, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of San Marino, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Singapore, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

- While we applaud the inclusion of some regional organizations (e.g., APEC, ASEAN, AU Commission, EU, NEPAD) in the last two G-20 Summits, the participation of these and other established regional organizations in future G-20 Summits should be regularized. These regional organizations should fully participate in the G-20 and its associated processes.
3. The 3G believes that the above approach would bring greater transparency and inclusivity to the G-20 process, which in turn would strengthen the process and build wider support for G-20 actions.
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