

# REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF OFFICIALS FROM EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

1-3 SEPTEMBER 1999  
SINGAPORE

1. The Inaugural Meeting was held at The Mandarin Singapore, Singapore from 1-3 September 1999. The Opening Ceremony was held on 2 September 1999. The Opening Remarks of His Excellency Professor S Jayakumar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore, and the speech by the leader of the Chilean Delegation, His Excellency Cristian Barros, Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are at Annexes A and B respectively.

2. The Meeting was attended by officials of the 27 member countries, namely Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Vietnam. The list of delegates appears at Annex C.

3. The Meeting was chaired by Mr Bilahari Kausikan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

## AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Meeting adopted the Agenda at Annex D.

## AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

5. The Meeting noted the Programme at Annex E. The Meeting met in plenary.

## AGENDA ITEM 3: EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA FORUM ? OTHER APPELLATIONS

6. The Meeting had an exchange of views on the appellation. The Meeting agreed that alternative appellations could be considered based on the principles outlined in Annex F. Several delegations expressed the view that any appellation considered should be inclusive. The following possible appellations were suggested:

- East Asia-Latin America +2 Forum
- Singapore Forum
- Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation
- Singapore-Santiago Forum
- The Grand Alliance

7. The Meeting agreed that consultations should continue with a view to reaching a consensus on a new appellation, pending which “East Asia- Latin America Forum (EALAF)” would be the working name for the Forum. Consultations on an alternative appellation should not impede progress in substantive areas.

#### AGENDA ITEM 4: DISCUSSION ON FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR THE EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA FORUM (EALAF)

8. The Meeting considered the Framework Document at Annex G. There were many constructive suggestions on the structure and rationale of the Framework Document. Delegations were invited to submit further suggestions in writing. It was agreed that Singapore would revise the Framework Document in light of these suggestions, and that the revised draft would be circulated to delegations for further comments.

#### AGENDA ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON EALAF DELIVERABLES

9. The Meeting agreed that the areas of cooperation and/or projects should be within the purposes and scope of the Forum. Many ideas for areas of cooperation and/or projects were proposed, as reflected at Annex H. The Meeting also agreed that at the initial stage, the projects could be national projects, initiated, funded and coordinated by the country that proposed them.

#### AGENDA ITEM 6: DATE, VENUE, AND COORDINATORS FOR THE SECOND EAST ASIA-LATIN AMERICA FORUM (EALAF) MEETING

10. The Meeting decided that each region will have two coordinators chosen among its respective members. The Meeting agreed that Singapore and Chile will be the first two leading coordinators for the Forum. The second set of coordinators will be designated later.

11. The Meeting agreed to work towards a Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Santiago, Chile, in the first quarter of 2001, including a preparatory meeting of officials in 2000, and a second officials' meeting back-to-back with the Ministerial Meeting.

#### AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS

12. No other matters were raised.

#### AGENDA ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE MEETING

13. The Meeting adopted the Report of the Meeting.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

14. The Meeting expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made.