

	<p>الفريق الدولي لدراسة مسائل الجوت 国际黄麻研究组 GROUPE D'ÉTUDE INTERNATIONALE DU JUTE INTERNATIONAL JUTE STUDY GROUP</p>	<p>Restricted C/(XIV)/12 July 22, 2012</p>
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Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of the International Jute Study Group (IJSG)

Dhaka, May 24, 2012

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A. Opening of the Session

The Fourteenth Session of the Council of the IJSG was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on May 24, 2012. Ms. Kiran Dhingra, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Chairperson of the Council of IJSG inaugurated and chaired the session.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Secretary General of IJSG, Mr. Bhupendra Singh, started the Fourteenth Session of the Council. The Secretary General welcomed the Chairperson and expressed his thankfulness to her for attending the session in the midst of her busy schedule. The Secretary General welcomed the European Union representatives from European Union Delegation to Bangladesh Ms. Lenka Vitkova, Head of Governance, HR and Economic Cooperation and Mr. Zillul Hye Razi, Trade Advisor; the representative from India, Mr. Sujit Gulati, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textile, Government of India; and Bangladesh delegation led by Mr. Ashraful Moqbul, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Textiles & Jute (MoTJ) and other delegates. The Secretary General also welcomed the delegations of observer countries. He expressed his cordial thanks to the representative of Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Said Kasmi, Second Secretary, embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Bangladesh for joining the Council session. The Secretary General remarked that the fourteenth session of the Council was particularly important because the Terms of Reference (ToR) of IJSG beyond 2014 was to be discussed in the session and also its plan of actions in the coming years.

A.1 Ascertainment of quorum

The quorum was ascertained and decided that since all the members were present, the quorum as required under Paragraph 9(g) of the Agreement Establishing the Terms of Reference of the International Jute Study Group, 2001, had been met. A list of participants is presented in **Annex 1**.

A.2 Adoption of agenda and organisation of work

With the permission of the Chairperson the Council adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document **C/(XIV)/1** to be final for conducting the meeting. The adopted agenda is provided in **Annex 2**.

A.3 Credentials of Delegates

The Council, noting the limited number of membership and recalling the decision taken at its previous sessions, decided [**Decision I (XIV)**] not to elect a Credential Committee but to entrust the responsibility to the Secretary General to check the appropriate documents and to report to the Council. Accordingly, the Secretary General reported the Council that the credentials of delegates of all Members have been checked and found to be in order.

A.4 Formal acceptance of the Kingdom of Morocco as a member country to IJSG

The Secretary General informed the Council that the IJSG Secretariat received a membership fee from the Government of Morocco amounting to USD 8,670.00 as the annual membership contribution on January 04, 2012 for the year 2011-12. Referring to the representative of the Kingdom of Morocco the Secretary General informed the Council that because of the recent changes in the Government of Morocco, the membership process would take some more time to be formalized and thus requested the Council to defer the agenda. The Council decided [**Decision II (XIV)**] to defer the agenda till completion of the remaining formalities with the Government of Morocco.

A.5 Admission of Observers

The Council decided [**Decision II (XIV)**] to accept the representatives of the observer countries. The Secretary General welcomed the representatives of Bhutan, Denmark, Philippines, Russian Federation, CIRDAP, FAO, UNIDO, SAC as observers in the Fourteenth Session of the Council according to Paragraph 14(c) of the Terms of Reference.

A.6 Distribution of Votes to the Administrative Budget of IJSG for 2012-13

The Secretariat presented the document in **C/(XIV)/2** relating to “Distribution of Votes to the Administrative Budget of IJSG for 2012-13” based on the latest FAO statistics on production and trade.

The Council decided [**Decision III (XIV)**] to approve the Distribution of Votes to the Administrative Budget of IJSG for the jute year 2012-13.

A.7 Confirmation of the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Council

The Secretary General informed the Council that the report of Thirteenth Session of the Council was circulated to the members and associate members. The Secretary General asked for comments from the members and observers. Since no comment was made, the Council decided [**Decision IV (XIV)**] to approve the report of the Thirteenth Session of the Council.

A.8 Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Council

The Chairperson of the Council addressed the representatives of Bangladesh, European Union, Morocco and all the Observers. She appreciated and acknowledged the efforts made by IJSG in the last ten years for the development of jute and allied fibre sector. She also appreciated the efforts made for increasing membership and noted the success of getting Morocco as a member country of IJSG and noted the progress made on the membership matter of Turkey. She acknowledged the decisions taken in the Thirteenth Council to increase the size, relevance and scope of IJSG by expanding it's mandated to other natural bast and allied fibres. She mentioned that wider mandates, more participating countries and greater interactions among stakeholders would mean greater cross pollination and more varied inputs into studies and projects. She mentioned that the support of the European Union is crucial. She stated that IJSG's focus for a sustainable development would be supportive of the European Union's efforts towards an environmentally sustainable livelihood. She also spoke of various positive impacts of jute and allied natural fibres in terms of their environmental and socio-economic advantages. She pointed out the inherent structural deficiencies of jute sector

and urged to solve these problems to ensure sustainable growth of the sector. The Council Chairperson in her speech emphasized on increasing the production of jute and allied natural fibres and diversification of these products both in micro enterprise sectors and in mills.

A.9 Statement by the Secretary General on the activities after the Thirteenth Session of the Council and assessment of the world jute situation and the related matters

The Secretary General made a brief statement on the achievements of IJSG since the IJO period. He said IJSG was established in April 2002 and is the only commodity body for jute, kenaf and other allied natural fibres. It is recognized by CFC for funding and other supports. He mentioned that the current ToR of IJSG will expire on April 2014.

The Secretary General briefly mentioned the broad mandates of IJSG, i.e. to create awareness on various application of jute as natural, renewable and biodegradable fibre, to provide an effective framework for international cooperation, expansion of international trade, active participation of private sector, poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and sustainable environment. He also pointed out the efforts of IJSG made for the improvement of productivity, technology development, market intelligence and product diversification of jute, kenaf and allied natural fibres.

The Secretary General also presented the membership status of IJSG and the collaborations made with different international organizations for the development and promotion of jute sector. He said that Morocco has joined the Group and the formalities will be completed very soon. He mentioned the international cooperation made by IJSG with different international organizations, such as, FAO, CFC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ESCAP, CIRDAP, NCDPD, INF&MP and SAC. He noted that at present IJSG has 170 associate members from 21 different countries among which 16 are non-member countries. He also noted that largest buyers from Europe, e.g. Eurojute, Pure jute, Maxim etc are the associate members of IJSG. He presented the composition of associate members among which 40% is industries, 18% is entrepreneurs and other are associations, research organization etc. He mentioned that the growth of associate memberships clearly indicates that IJSG is becoming more useful to its stakeholders.

The Secretary General presented the tangible outcome of IJSG project and activities. He mentioned that so far IJSG has completed 35 projects and activities worth USD 12.34 million US dollars. He mentioned that through these projects 7,669 farmers have received skill development training, 2,920 small entrepreneurs were developed, 7670 jute farmers were trained in 21 jute growing regions of Bangladesh and India, 3450 artisans/ crafts persons received skill development training and more than 3000 persons attended awareness programs. The Secretary General also cited different significant activities of IJSG such as training programs and awareness raising activities and different projects on global trade promotion, such as small scale kenaf production system for specific industrial application, design and market development program in Bangladesh, India and other countries. He specifically mentioned the 'HS codes' developed for traditional and diversified jute products which is helping in jute trade sector. He stated the active participation of private sector and referred the successful 12th Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) meeting held in Gaziantep, Turkey in December 2011. He highlighted the activities particularly made in women empowerment sector.

Regarding sustainability initiative, the Secretary General mentioned that in the year 2009 IJSG played the leading role in lobbying at the UN level to celebrate the 'International Year of Natural Fibres'. He mentioned that IJSG is now closely working with different international organizations, such as FAO, DNFI and also noted that IJSG has an enriched library and resource center.

The Secretary General pointed out the areas where IJSG could focus more, such as limited membership of the Group, issues regarding the 'name' of the Group. He also noted the issues of international trade, export promotion and sought support from the members to solve the issues. He projected the potential future demand of natural fibre composite in diversified sectors especially in automobile sector used by Toyota, Mercedes and Ford. He said sustainable coffee and cocoa has demand for 32.5 million metric ton of jute bags and at present we are not in a position to supply that demand, he mentioned. He also remarked that food grade jute bag has an annual demand of 32 million bags against which the current supply is 12 million bags only.

The Secretary General mentioned about the training programs conducted both in Bangladesh and India in collaboration with National Center for Design and Product Development (NCDPD), India. He mentioned various programs undertaken by IJSG, such as the awareness program for women's empowerment, celebration program of world environment day. He also mentioned the intensive efforts made to increase the membership and associate members of IJSG.

The Secretary General presented the future plan of action of IJSG where he mentioned about developing the strategic action plans for sustainable jute economy to ensure sustainable production, manufacturing and trading system. He mentioned that IJSG is also working to develop a strategic action plan for tapping the increased demand for food grade jute bags, bio composite and jute shopping bags where there is a large untapped demand. He also mentioned about the future growth of demand for jute carry bags in the light of European Union's move in discouraging the use of polythene bags, which is reflected in the response of public survey done by the European Commission. In that survey 70% of the respondents voted for a complete ban on plastic bags. He mentioned that IJSG has developed a project named 'Strengthening Jute Bag Value Chain' and submitted to 'Switch Asia' which is a Europe based development agency providing grants in commodity sector. The project intended to create a sustainable supply chain in jute bags has been accepted for consideration by 'Switch Asia'.

The Secretary General also made a brief presentation of world jute situation based on latest FAO data.

A.10 IJSG video presentation on "Jute - its Promises"

A video presentation titled "Jute - its Promises" was made for the participants of the Council. The video presentation was focused on jute and its usefulness. It also presented the roles which IJSG is playing for the development of jute sector.

B. Membership Matters

B.1 Report of the Secretary General on membership of IJSG

The Secretary General presented the Report regarding the present Membership drive and the efforts made during the past contained in **Annex-2** of document **C/(XIV)/1**. The Council decided [**Decision**

VII (XIV)] to accept the current status of Membership of IJSG. The Council requested the IJSG Secretariat to continue the efforts for getting more members and also to reiterate its appeal to non-member countries. The Council requested all existing members to make collective efforts and also to utilize their appropriate diplomatic channels and help IJSG Secretariat to persuade the potential member countries to become member of IJSG.

B.2. Approval of resolutions

a. Resolution 01: Prior approval of membership of Government of Turkey

The Secretary General of IJSG informed the Council that the Government of Turkey has given in principal acceptance for its membership to IJSG through the ministry of External Affairs, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. During the visit of honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Turkey in April 2012, a letter of intent has been signed between Bangladesh and Turkey under which Turkey would join the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) soon. Government of Turkey is likely to communicate their formal letter of acceptance to IJSG shortly. In order to expedite the whole process quickly so that the membership could be materialized in this jute year, the Council decided **[Decision VIII (XIV)]** to accept the resolution and gave prior approval to the membership of Turkey to the IJSG and authorized the Secretary General to complete other formalities as and when the formal letter of intent is received from the Government of Turkey.

b. Fixation of votes and membership contribution fee for the countries for which reliable jute statistical details for calculating 'Coefficient of Jute related Importance (COJI)' are not available

The Secretary General informed that Council that there are several prospective member countries for which no authentic FAO data regarding production and trade of jute is available. IJSG is attempting to have membership of such countries as well but presently IJSG is not in a position to tell them their number of votes or financial contribution to be made by them. In order to meet out this situation, it is desirable that IJSG Council should fix a lump sum vote and membership fee for such countries where the jute related reliable statistical details necessary for calculation their 'Coefficient of Jute related Importance' (COJI) is not available as mentioned in Section 9(d) of the existing ToR of IJSG.

The minimum number of votes with an individual European country at present is 39 and the minimum contribution by any country is US\$ 14,313.00. Comparing the number of votes with proposed contribution, it is reasonable that where necessary statistical details are not available for new members, voting rights of 25-30 may be allotted and a corresponding membership fee of US\$ 10,000.00 may be fixed. In order to simplify the voting calculation, it is proposed that such member countries could be allocated lump sum 30 for the interim period under the existing ToR. These additional votes however, shall be counted as valid votes while deciding any issue by voting under Chapter 4 of IJSG Rules of Procedure; Rule 24 – 27 and rule 33, 35 and 36 or wherever any decision is to be made on the basis of vote.

The Council took a note of the resolutions and decided **[Decision IX (XIV)]** to approve the resolution stating a fixed number of votes of 30 for such potential member countries is to be used as a temporary measure until reliable statistics are available and only in cases where FAO statistics do

not exist. The Council also decided to approve a flat rate of USD 10,000.00 of annual membership fee for such potential member countries for the remaining period of the existing ToR.

B.3. Authorization to the Secretary General to accept the letter of accession from prospective member countries and complete the formalities

The IJSG Secretariat informed the Council that IJSG has made significant progress on Membership matters and several countries like Turkey, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, South Korea etc. are close to join the group in near future. He mentioned that considering the current tenure of IJSG, it is necessary to accelerate the process of new membership. To make the membership process easier and simpler to the prospective member countries, the Council may authorize the Secretary General to accept the letter of accession from prospective member countries and complete the formalities subject to seeking of post facto approval of the Council.

The representative of European Union Ms. Lenka Vitkova took a note of the resolution and welcomed the role of IJSG to accelerate the process of new membership. She also expected a timeframe for the prospective member countries to join IJSG. The head of delegation of Bangladesh, Mr. Ashrafal Moqbul, took notes of the matter and said that the procedural formalities for accepting the letter of accession from the prospective member countries can be conducted by the Secretary General.

The Secretary General clarified that the proposal is regarding the prospective member countries and IJSG is working closely with these to pursue membership. However, there is no certainty that these countries will join IJSG before 2014. The major reason he attributed to is the uncertainty about the Group to continue beyond 2014. The Secretary General sought the in principle support and assurance from the EU to achieve result from IJSG's membership drive.

Considering the need for accelerating the processing for membership of such countries without procedural delays and noting the fact that Secretary General will seek the post facto approval of the Council subsequently; the Council decided [**Decision X (XIV)**] to authorize the Secretary General to accept the letter of accession from prospective member countries and complete the formalities.

B.4. Status of Associate Membership of IJSG

The Secretary General presented the Report on Associate Membership and the efforts made after the last Council, contained in the document C/(XIV)/3.

The Council decided [**Decision XI (XIV)**] to approve the Associate Membership of the eleven Associations/Entities, provisionally accepted by the Secretary General, as given in the List-B of the document C/(XIV)/3 and advised the Secretariat to continue the efforts for getting more associate members.

C. Policy Matters

C.1. Presentation of Country paper on jute related issues

With the permission of the Chairperson the Secretary General requested the delegates from Bangladesh and India to present country papers on jute trade information and statistics.

The representative of Bangladesh mentioned that both Bangladesh and India have commonality in the jute sector. He said that the awareness needs to be raised among the users over the world about the benefits of jute fibres and this will increase the demand in producing countries. He also emphasized the need to popularize jute cultivation in other countries apart from Bangladesh and India to meet the potential future demand.

The Director General of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Dr. Md. Kamal Uddin sought the support of the European Union for modern machinery development in jute sector. He also remarked the invention of Ribbon retting technique developed by BJRI which is convenient for jute growing areas where there is scarcity of water. The ribbon retting technology is also environment friendly because it requires minimal amount of water for retting process.

The Chairperson remarked that both the presentations showed that the potential for jute sector is still largely unexploited. She said the potential market is very huge and it needs the focus on increasing productivity and quality. The need for R&D support is very crucial and IJSG needs to extend support to both the producing and consuming countries in this regard. The Chairperson appreciated the role of IJSG in developing HS code and standardization of food grade jute bags and other activities. She said that the jute market will be a growing one but whether the market will be competitive or not will depend on increased productivity in both Bangladesh and India. She concluded that both the countries are focused upon increasing the productivity and widening the jute market in the world.

C.3. Discussion on important issues identified by IJSG for advice of the Council

The Secretary General presented several important issues identified by IJSG for discussion in the Council Session. The Secretary General noted that price volatility is one of the major challenges for jute sector and the ultimately the price will determine the future market for jute products because just has several competitors such as synthetics, bio plastics etc. Thus a balance is required to bring a win-win situation for farmers, industries and consumers he stated. He said that IJSG is working towards developing a steady market for jute and exploit the existing and future green market in infrastructure, jute geo-textile, automobile and paper & pulp sectors. He appreciated the decision of Government of Bangladesh to restart few paper mills based on jute pulp.

Muhammad Shams-uz Zoha, Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Spinners Associations (BJSA) emphasized on the need for developing human resources in jute sector to increase efficiency and productivity. He also focused on providing short term institutional training which would be inherited to the future generation.

The representative of European Union Ms. Lenka Vitkova stated that there is very clear move in the European Union (EU) to encourage lesser use of polythene shopping bags. In that context the EU members called upon the European Commission to conduct a public consultation. In that

consultation 15,000 respondent participated and 70% of the respondents sought for a full ban of polythene bags. Only 12% of these respondents believed that compostable and bio degradable bag is sufficient to meet environmental cause. Therefore clearly there is a strong opposition against the use of polythene bags but still there is no overall ban on the use of polythene bags at EU level. Apart from ban several other measures have been taken to reduce the use of polythene bags such as pricing and taxing, she mentioned. She also mentioned as the major importer of jute, the European Union is interested in trade. In the existing trade policy of EU one of the major components is information about the market. She said that the first goal of EU trade policy is to extend practical information on trade. She referred to the EU export helpdesk which is available for exporters and encouraged to make the best use of that through multilateral functions. She advised IJSG to increase its role in ensuring the transparency of information on market.

She said, the Second goal of the trade and development policy is to support participation of small businesses in trade scheme that added value for producers including sustainability issues such as fair, ethical and organic trade and geographic origin criteria and development cooperation with SAARC countries.

The FAO representative Mr. Bodrul Arefin, Consultant, focused on the future green market and green development funds.

C.4 Confirmation of Decisions/Recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB)

With the permission of the Chairperson, the PSCB Chairperson, Mr. Rezaul Karim informed the Council that the Twelfth PSCB meeting held at Gaziantep, Turkey during 07-08 December 2011 and the minutes has been circulated to all the members and associate members. So far no comment has been received on the report. The Council decided [**Decision XIII (XIV)**] to approve the decisions/recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the PSCB.

C.5 Confirmation of Decisions/Recommendations of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee on Projects (CoP)

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Committee on Projects (CoP), Ms. Shameema Sultana, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Government of Bangladesh presented the Thirteenth CoP report for perusal of the Council. The Council decided [**Decision XIV (XIV)**] to approve the decisions/recommendations of the Thirteenth Meeting of the COP.

C.6 Discussion on comments on the evaluation report by the Members and Observers

The Secretary General informed the Council that this is an ongoing agenda which was taken up in the last Council meeting. He informed that an external evaluation was conducted by IJSG and the report was recirculated for the comments from members and all other stakeholders. He informed the Council that IJSG has already received comments from Government of Bangladesh. The Secretary General requested the member countries to present their comments.

The representative of India, Mr. Sujit Gulati, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India suggested that IJSG should follow the recommendations made in the evaluation report and informed that the formal response of Government of India shall be sent subsequently.

The representative of European Union, Ms. Lenka Vitkova congratulated IJSG for the positive outcomes of the evaluation report. The Council accepted the evaluation report and requested the IJSG Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the evaluation report.

D. Organizational Matters

D.1. Duration, Extension and Renegotiation of the TOR of the IJSG

The Secretary General made a presentation giving the rationale for the existing member countries to continue supporting IJSG beyond 2014. He stated that IJSG is a unique innovation by its member countries and has more relevance in 2012 than it had in 2001. He said at the end of 90's jute sector was going through a very difficult phase and when the term of IJO expired many countries did not join IJSG as it was assumed that jute might not have much importance any longer. He also said, use of polythene and use of containers were two major reasons for which the consumption of jute declined. During that period the European Union supported this organization with some unique mandates different from any other commodity bodies. He noted that two evaluations were conducted on the activities of IJSG and positive observations were made in both the evaluation reports. The first evaluation report was done by UK based agency named International Development Consultancy (IDC) in 2004 where they mentioned that IJSG is the only ICB working for poverty alleviation and it is the most cost effective commodity body. He also informed the Council about the current activities of IJSG and potential scope for future work. He emphasized on the need for consolidation of natural fibres as suggested in the evaluation report conducted by the European Union.

The Secretary General made an informative presentation on the status of different bast and hard fibres in the world and explained the need for consolidation. He also focused on the current status of use of polythene bags and carbon emission status of different countries.

The Secretary General also made a comparative presentation on the proposed changes in the ToR for the future organization beyond 2014. He presented the specific changes proposed in the ToR, i.e. the name of the future organization, definitions, preamble, objectives, functions and voting rights. He said that the proposed ToR mainly focuses on market development; involve the role of private sector, productivity improvement, human resource development, process technology development, adoption of modern marketing mechanism and reduce international market volatility. The new organization will also focus on carbon cutting and development of ecofriendly market. He also stated that the new organization will undertake various studies in natural fibre sector including tariff and non-tariff barrier, environmental and social compliances etc. The Secretary General clarified the Council that no specific name was proposed for the organization at this stage as it may cause unnecessary difference of opinion in the very beginning. Therefore the name was left open for discussion once it is decided in principle that the organization will continue beyond 2014.

The Secretary General informed the Council that if the requirement for entry into force of this ToR is not met by 31st December 2013 than it will be very difficult to start the new organization within the timeframe. Therefore it is important to decide by the existing member countries either to continue with the existing or a modified form of organization after 2014. The Council has the mandate to approve the draft ToR, he said. The Council does not carry the ability to make a final decision for the future organization. The Secretary General requested the Council to accept the proposed ToR in order to circulate it to the member countries for seeking the comments from the competent level of the respective governments.

The FAO representative Mr. Bodrul Arefin suggested to add 'sustainable development' and 'climate change adaptation and mitigation' in the appropriate section of 'function' of the proposed ToR.

The EU representative Ms. Lenka Vitkova appreciated the proposal to circulate the draft ToR to the member countries in order to initiate the process of renegotiation. She clarified that the EU will be able to confirm its position regarding continuing its support for IJSG after the EU Council session after July 2012.

Noting the Comments on the revised draft ToR by the stakeholders of IJSG the Council decided **[Decision XVI (XIV)]** to accept the revised draft ToR with the changes proposed by the Council as the working draft and to circulate the draft ToR to all member countries for consideration.

D.2 IJSG Annual Work Plan 2012-13

The Secretary General presented the major items to be covered by the activities of IJSG in the year 2012-13. The Council decided **[Decision XVII (XIV)]** to approve the IJSG Annual Work Plan for the year 2012-13.

E. Administrative and Financial Matters

E.1 Staff Matters and related issues

The Secretary General informed the Council that IJSG is a very small organization consisting of 14 personnel and it has a sanctioned post of 'Administrative and Finance Officer'. He said that considering the relatively small size of the Group, it does not require a full time Administrative and Finance Officer. He proposed to change the name of the position to 'Executive Secretary' who will look after membership issues and other related activities. He clarified that the proposed change does not including any financial obligation and it is in conformity of the requirement of IJSG.

The EU representative proposed that the administrative and financial function should also be performed by the 'Executive Secretary'.

The Council decided **[Decision XVIII (XIV)]** to rename the existing post of 'Finance and Administrative Officer' as 'Executive Secretary ' in the same salary structure.

E.2 Announcement of contributions to the Special Account

No contribution was made in the Special Account of IJSG.

E.3 Financial Resources of the Special Account

The Secretary General informed the Council of the position of the account for pre-project and project activities for the information of the Council.

E.4 Approval of the Administrative Budget of IJSG for 2012-13

The Secretary General informed the Council that the budget for 2012-13 was prepared while taking the global economic scenario in consideration and tries to keep the proposal at the level of previous year as far as possible. The Administrative Budget of IJSG for 2012/2013 is contained in Document C/(XIV)/8.

The EU representative Ms. Lenka Vitkova appreciated the efforts of IJSG Secretariat to keep the budget at the same level of previous year. She however requested the Secretariat to observe more economy in case of travel budget.

The Council decided [**Decision XIX (XIV)**] to approve the Administrative Budget of the IJSG for the year 2012-13.

E.5 Audit report for the year 2010-11

The Secretary General presented the audit report for the year 2010-11 for consideration of the Council. Noting the document C/(XIV)/9, containing the Audit report for the year 2010-11, the Council decided [**Decision XX (XIV)**] to approve the Audit report for the year 2010-11.

E.6 Appointment of Auditors for the year 2011-2012

The Secretary General presented three names of shortlisted Auditors for the year 2011-2012 along with their fees and experience in auditing international organizations. The Council decided [**Decision XXI (XIV)**] to appoint the ACNABIN Audit Firm as the auditor for IJSG for the jute year 2011-12 with an audit fee of BDT 76,100.00.

E.7 Election of Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson of the Council for 2012-13

The Secretary General informed the Council that according to the rule 6 of the Rules of Procedures of IJSG, the election of the Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson for a jute year (July – June) shall take place at the last session held in the preceding jute year. The council unanimously decided [**Decision XXII (XIV)**] to elect the Senior Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Government of Bangladesh as the Chairperson and the representative of EU as the Vice Chairperson of IJSG Council for the jute year 2012-13.

F. Other Business

F.1 Discussions and the approval of revised Internship Policy of IJSG

The Secretary General presented a revised internship policy in document C/(XIV)/10. The Secretary General informed that currently the IJSG Secretariat pays USD 100 monthly to the interns. In the proposed policy USD 150 is proposed to be paid monthly to the interns. The idea of internship is related to the human resources development for jute sector. Many interns from IJSG are now serving the private sector, he mentioned. He clarified that not more than two interns will be taken up at a time. The Council approved [**Decision XXIII (XIV)**] the revised internship policy of IJSG.

F.2 Any other business with the approval of the Chairperson

In order to increase the efficiency of the personnel and further development of the organization the Secretary General proposed to rename the position “Library, Media and Information Assistant (LMIA) as the “Library and Resource Centre Assistant (LRCA) and “Operations Assistant (OA) as the “Media and Operations Assistant (MOA);

The Council decided [**Decision XXIV (XIV)**] to rename the position ‘Library, Media and Information Assistant (LMIA)’ as the “Library and Resource Centre Assistant (LRCA) and ‘Operations Assistant (OA)’ as the “Media and Operations Assistant (MOA)’.

G. Dates of the Fifteenth Session of the Council

The Council decided [**Decision XXV (XIV)**] to convene its Fifteenth Session of the Council to discuss the response of the existing member countries on the 'proposed Terms of Reference' on the possible re-negotiation or the otherwise, in October/November 2012. The actual date(s) of the Council Session will be decided in consultation with the Chairperson and the member Countries.

H. Adoption of the Record of Decisions of the Session

The Council decided [**Decision XXVI (XIV)**] to adopt the Record of Decisions of the Fourteenth Session of the Council as contained in document C/(XIV)/12,. The Record of Decisions of the Fourteenth Session of the Council is presented in **Annex 3**.

List of Annexes:

Annex 01: List of participants of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of IJSG.

Annex 02: Adopted agenda of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of IJSG.

Annex 03: Record of decisions of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of IJSG.