

Special Tribute Seminar in Honour of Dr. Gamani Corea

20 March 2014, 1500-1800h, Room XXV, *Palais des Nations*, United Nations Office at Geneva

Concept Note

A **half-day special Tribute seminar** in commemoration of the life and intellectual legacy of Dr. , Gamani Corea of Sri Lanka (UNCTAD Secretary-General 1974-1984 and South Centre Board Chair 2001-2002) will take place on **20 March 2014, 1500-1800h, Room XXV**, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. This seminar will have three parts: **The opening remarks** by H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, Chairman of the South Centre Board, and H.E. Ambassador Ravinatha Pandukabhaya Aryasinha, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva. **The first session will be a tribute session and the second session will focus on the intellectual legacy** of Dr. Corea followed by interventions from the floor.

Dr. Gamani Corea passed away in Sri Lanka on 3 November 2013. Dr. Corea started his career at the Central Bank in Sri Lanka where he later became director of economic research. He was also the Permanent Secretary to the **Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs** playing a key role on Sri Lankan economic policy. In 1963 he was invited by Raul Prebisch to join the team involved on the preparation of the first **UNCTAD Conference** in 1964, an organization which he served later as Secretary General from 1974 to 1984. He was also instrumental for the establishment of the **Group of 77** and later in the 90s, the **South Centre** having previously served as member of the **South Commission** (1987-1990) and a decade later as member and chair of the Board of the Centre (2002 to 2003). Dr. Corea promoted domestic and international economic policies aimed at the benefit of the poor and of the developing countries. He contributed to reinforce unity among nations of the South and their position in multilateral negotiations.

Dr. Corea introduced the ***Integrated Programme for Commodities*** – commonly known as the Corea Plan, one of his finest achievements that have led to the establishment of the **Common Fund for Commodities**. The influence of Dr. Corea on the decision to establish the **Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)** initiative is also another of his accomplishment having previously chaired the Expert Group of the Non-Aligned Movement on Third World Debt which served as the basis for the HIPC initiative. He was a strong proponent of a **New International Economic Order (NIEO)**, and under his tenure, UNCTAD experienced one of the most active moments of its history.

The **special tribute seminar of the South Centre** aims not only to pay a tribute to this eminent South thinker but also, to debate the intellectual thinking going beyond Dr. Gamani Corea's legacy as many of his ideas and thoughts are a timely element for our debates in search of alternatives to the current developmental challenges the Global South is facing today.

This South Centre event is being organized with the support of the Permanent Mission of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations at Geneva.

For more information

Please contact Vicente Paolo Yu, Head of Administration and Programme Coordinator (Global Governance) of the South Centre: Email: yu@southcentre.int, or telephone +41 22 791 80 50.

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DRAFT AGENDA

15:00-15:30 OPENING REMARKS

Moderator: Mr. Martin KHOR, Executive Director, South Centre

H.E. Mr. Benjamin W. MKAPA, Chairperson of the Board of the South Centre

Dr. Mukhisa KITUYI, Secretary General of UNCTAD (Represented by Dr. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (GDS))

H.E. Mr. Ravinatha Pandukabhaya ARYASINHA, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

15:30-16:30 TRIBUTE TO GAMANI COREA: LIFE AND WORK

Gamani Corea decisive role on keeping integrity and independence of UNCTAD
Ambassador Rubens RICUPERO, Former Secretary General of UNCTAD (1995-2004)

Mr. Chakravarthi RAGHAVAN, Emeritus Editor of the South-North Development Monitor (SUNS)

16:30-17:45 THE INTELLECTUAL LEGACY OF GAMANI COREA

Moderator: Professor Deepak NAYYAR, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Member of the Board of the South Centre

Gamani's contribution on the Commodity Price Stabilization Problems

Dr. Saman KELEGAMA, Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)

Gamani's involvement with the issues of money and finance both north south and south-south before, during and after UNCTAD

Mr. Michael SAKBANI, former Director of the Division of Economic Cooperation, Poverty Alleviation, and UNCTAD's Special Programs.

Gamani's role on global management, interdependence of money, finance and trade, and the debt burden of developing countries

Mr. Gerasimos ARSENIS, former Director of Money, Finance and Development Division/UNCTAD

The Development Consensus

Mr. Jan PRONK, former Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD. Former Minister of Development Cooperation and Environment of Netherlands

Gamani Corea's activities on the development/environment interface

Mr. Michael ZAMMIT CUTAJAR, former UNCTAD staff and former Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

17:45-18:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS