



SECRETARÍA PRO-TÉMPORE
MÉXICO
2008-2010

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CLAUDE HELLER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

**IN THE ECOSOC SPECIAL MEETING
ON THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS**

MAY 20TH, 2008

(check against delivery)

**Statement by Amb. Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico in
his faculty of Pro-Tempore Secretary of the Group of Rio in the Special
ECOSOC Special Meeting on the Global Food Crisis**

New York, 20 May 2008

Mr. Secretary General
Mr. President of the General Assembly
Mr. President of ECOSOC
Ladies and gentlemen

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the countries that make up the Rio Group in order to congratulate ourselves for the timely holding of this reunion. We believe that the objectives of the reunion are in line with the urgency and gravity of the situation which we now face, and at the same time, they appropriately respond to the call of the 2005 World Summit for reinforcing the role of the United Nations in the rapid response to international events that have an impact in development and humanitarian consequences.

The topic of food security, particularly the crisis caused by the unprecedented increase in food prices, is a serious concern for the member countries of the Rio Group, especially because of the humanitarian and development related risks that they bring about.

We believe that the current crisis puts into question the improvements in terms of the population's wellbeing, especially in the least privileged sectors of our societies.

In that sense, as was pointed out by the Chiefs of State and Government that participated in the Fifth Latin America and Caribbean – European Union Summit on 16 May 2008, "we agree the urgent measures are needed to help the most vulnerable countries and the populations most affected by high food prices. We are also convinced that, in the medium and long term, a long-lasting response to the current crisis requires coordinated actions by the international community, with aims to strengthen agricultural capacity and rural development, in order to satisfy the current demand" ("Lima Declaration", Paragraph 8).

In regards to this, we recognize the importance of the Secretary General's initiative to create a High-Level Working Group on the subject of the Global Food Crisis, with the purpose of studying its multiple causes and proposing solutions, particularly by establishing an action plan and coordinating its implementation. We believe, in addition, that the measures being implemented by other international organizations are also important.

Concerning the subject of trade, it is especially important, in the context of the current situation, to emphatically call for a successful conclusion of the Doha

Round this year in order to eradicate all agricultural subsidies that distort the markets and have an effect mainly on developing countries, as was recognized by the Chief Executive Board meeting on 29 April 2008.

In the same fashion, and with complete respect for national sovereignty and without any hindrance of any country's ability to decide its own development strategy and the most convenient measures to protect its own population, we consider that domestic measures that could affect world food markets by applying additional price-increasing pressure should be avoided.

In our efforts to have a coherent, coordinated, and multi-dimensional approach to the topic, we consider that it should be addressed in the framework for the follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, as an emerging challenge in financing for development.

Finally, the member countries of the Rio Group will closely follow the results of the High Level Meeting organized by the FAO on this topic from June 3rd to the 5th of 2008, where we hope the subject will be incorporated.

Thank you very much,