



**PRESIDENCIA PRO-TÉMPORE
DE CHILE**

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**REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE
EMBAJADOR OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ**

**A NOMBRE DE LA COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS
LATINOAMERICANOS Y CARIBEÑOS
CELAC**

**Quinta Comisión, Sesión Principal del
66° Período de Sesiones de la Asamblea General**

**Naciones Unidas, Nueva York
5 de marzo de 2012**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE
AMBASSADOR OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ**

**ON BEHALF COMMUNITY OF LATIN-AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN STATES
CELAC**

**Fifth Committee, First Session
66th Session of the General Assembly**

**United Nations, New York
5TH March 2012**



Misión Permanente de Chile
ante las Naciones Unidas

PRESIDENCIA
PRO TEMPORE



CELAC
Comunidad de Estados
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which was recently constituted and represents an historic step towards the further integration and cooperation of its Member States.

Since this is our first intervention as a Group in a formal meeting of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, we would like to congratulate you on your leadership during the main part of this session, which brought us to a successful conclusion on items of great importance. At the same time, we wish you every success in guiding this first resumed session and pledge all efforts to cooperate in the forthcoming negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the Bureau of this Committee for preparing the draft programme of work and the Secretariat for preparing document A/C.5/66/L.28 on the status of preparedness of documentation.

The programme of work introduced today includes some topics of great importance to the Group and particularly some issues connected with the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 such as the Capital Master Plan, Conditions of services: Judges, Safety and security: Programme Criticality and Standards of accommodation for air travel.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Capital Master Plan, the Group wishes to voice deep concern about the delays anticipated in meeting the deadlines set for this project. We are also worried that this situation, together with the high associated costs, may be the basis for requesting more resources for this megaproject, which is already requiring a major financial effort from all member countries. In this connection, we urge the Secretariat to do everything possible to adhere to the budget and the deadlines approved in the initial resolution, so as to avoid any rescheduling or extension of time and/or resources allocated for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to another aspect of the plan, we consider that the cultural and historical heritage of the membership should be reflected equally. The CELAC wishes to recall the Rio Group request that a space should be identified for the region in the public areas of the architectural complex of United Nations Headquarters. In this regard, we will start studying the feasibility of this request.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding standards of accommodation for air travel, the Group urges the Secretariat to ensure that the resources approved for this item are used as efficiently as possible, avoiding unnecessary expenditure and promoting efficiencies that could be allocated to substantive activities through the regular budgetary procedures.

Regarding the unforeseen and extraordinary expenses related to the Human Rights Council, the Group will consider options to provide adequate financing to fund unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising from decisions and resolutions of the Human Rights Council, taking into consideration the proposals contained in all relevant Reports presented to the Committee on the subject, including those issued by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

In conclusion, the CELAC Group stands ready to collaborate on all the items contained in the agenda with the goal of advancing the negotiations and reaching satisfactory agreements to all, for which purpose we shall participate in the informal consultations in a constructive manner in order to ensure that the areas entrusted with performing the development mandates approved by the General Assembly have adequate resources for their full implementation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,