



SECRETARÍA PRO-TÉMPORE  
DEL GRUPO DE RÍO  
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**Statement by Counsellor Nelson Felipe Valdez of the Dominican Republic  
on behalf of the Rio Group at the Informal Review Sessions of Chapters 1  
and 2 of the Monterrey Consensus  
14 February 2008**

Distinguished Co-Facilitators, I take the floor on behalf of the Members of the Rio Group: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and my country, the Dominican Republic.

The subject of Financing for Development is of the greatest importance for the Members of our Group, which is strongly committed to its instrumentation. As proof of our interest on the matter is the creation of the Working Group on Financing for Development in the framework of the Summit of Heads of State and Government, taken place in March of 2007, in Guyana.

This Group has been actively working towards the enrichment of this process of dialogue and consultations that will culminate in the Doha Conference, through contributions and proposals formulated from a regional perspective. In this regard, the countries of the Rio Group congratulate themselves for the start of these consultations, and we thank the President of the General Assembly, Dr. Srgjan Kerim, as well as the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Norway, for their valuable work and cooperation in conducting them.

Distinguished Co-facilitators, the Members of the Rio Group consider that one of the greatest contributions of the Monterrey Consensus was the establishment of a series of commitments which both developed and developing countries need to advance in, with a view to achieving the full development of our societies.

In this regard, the countries of the Group recognize their responsibility in their own process of economic and social development, and in this context have taken measures, adopted policies, and implemented national plans directed at the mobilization of our domestic resources to promote the sustainable development of our societies.

**Today, the economies of the countries of the Rio Group find themselves better prepared, in general, to face the deceleration of the world economy. However, it is also necessary to work with international organizations in search of initiatives that enable the decrease, to a greater extent, of economic vulnerability in the face of the increasing interdependence that our economies present with respect to the rest of the world, particularly in the light of financial perspectives that do not seem very encouraging and that loom in the short and medium terms.**

**On the other hand, we consider it necessary to consolidate the support and cooperation of the international community in order to back the efforts of developing countries in general, and particularly Middle-Income countries, which present a specific problem relative to the combat of poverty and inequity, as well as the consolidation of social cohesion.**

**As a contribution to this process of consultations, the Rio Group has prepared a working document to be circulated, in which we point out a series of elements that appear to us relevant, flowing from our own experience and regional reality as Middle-Income countries. This document is an open contribution, which we expect to enrich with the discussions we are having at this time.**

**Finally, the Rio Group reiterates its support to this process and considers that the Doha Conference presents a key opportunity to review our advances and adjust the focus of our common actions, as well as to renew our commitment to the instrumentation of the Monterrey Consensus.**

**I thank you.**