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**Statement by Amb. Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of  
Mexico, in his faculty of Pro-Témpore Secretary of the  
Group of Río in the first informal consultation on the  
Results of the Follow-up International Conference on  
Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the  
Monterrey Consensus**

**New York, September 8, 2008**

**(Check against delivery)**

**(Unofficial translation)**

**Statement by Ambassador Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico, in his faculty of Pro-Tempore Secretary of the Group of Río in the first informal consultation on the Results of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus**

**8 September, 2008**

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Co-facilitators,

I speak on behalf of the Member States of the Rio Group to express my gratitude for your notable efforts in leading the work towards the preparation for the International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

In this new stage of the process, we want to take the opportunity to reiterate that we offer our complete support as well as the reassurances that the Member States of the Group maintain the commitment to participate in the different parts of the negotiation process in a constructive way.

I want to note that, because of its nature, the Rio Group is not a negotiating entity, but a mechanism for dialogue, consultation, and political agreement that has among its most main objectives, the promotion of democratic values, and support of development in our region, underscoring multilateralism and international law. In addition, one of its major tasks is to examine and agree on common positions regarding international affairs, especially within the framework of international forums.

In that regard, the Chiefs of States and Government of the Rio Group established in the Declaration of Turkeyen, Guyana, the Working Group on Financing for Development, that is coordinated by Chile. This past March, they reaffirmed their validity by highlighting the results reached by the group, I quote: "Defining a position of consensus among the countries in the Rio Group in the negotiation process leading to the International Conference on Financing for Development that will take place in Doha, Qatar, from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008" (Santo Domingo Declaration).

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Co-facilitators,

The results of the Working Group regarding the various chapters of the Monterrey Consensus were presented to this Assembly during the discussion process that took place during the first semester of the year. These elements constitute the contribution of the Rio Group, built on the base of the situations and experiences pertaining to development of its Member States with the

purpose of enriching the analysis and the discussion from our particular perspective.

I would like to thank you for your efforts in accommodating the Rio Group's comments in the proposed outcome document for the Doha Conference. We understand the complexity of the drafting process and we consider that it is a good base to begin negotiations from. However, we also consider that there is ample space for precisions and even major adjustments.

Mr. President of the General Assembly,  
Co-facilitators,

I would like to make a special reference to one of the elements that we have proposed as part of the discussion that we consider to be of great relevance for complying fully with the agreements and commitments contracted in Monterrey and the ones eventually reached in Doha.

The members of the Group understand the inherent difficulty in a process with such a wide reach, high complexity and length as the one we are beginning today. Nonetheless, and as we have pointed out, we consider it necessary to increase the visibility, level of participation, and above all, the political impact of the follow-up mechanism, based on the characteristics described in the document presented by the Group this past June, namely, integrated, periodical, multisectorial, dynamic and interactive, mindful of resource use, democratic and well balanced.

In that regard, we would like to reiterate our interest in having the opportunity to discuss the proposal that we presented in a serious and profound manner, hoping that we can advance towards a consensus but knowing that once the discussion is open, it will probably be subjected to adjustments. We expect, Mr. President and Co-facilitators, your qualified opinion on the most appropriate format for undertaking this discussion.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Group will continue to maintain a constant, open, constructive, and transparent dialogue concerning the process, remaining open to dialogue and exchange with other groups and particular actors, with the purpose of identifying elements of common interest that we will take on board from our different positions in the negotiations, whether in our national capacity or through the Group of 77, as appropriate.

Based on the model of our participation in the process of preparation for the Monterrey Conference in 2002, you can be sure that we will do what is possible to actively cooperate to the advancement of solutions for the consensus, in order to take a step forward in the construction of a more equal and beneficial globalization to transform the XXI Century into the Century of Development for all.

Thank you.