



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement**

by

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**ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

at the  
**Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee**

**MARCH 6, 2006**

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Rio Group: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Rio Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the Distinguished Representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We resume the work of the Fifth Committee at a time of ongoing reform of the United Nations. We have approved the budget for the current biennium and the Secretary General will shortly report on the review of mandates and Secretariat and Management reform. The agenda reveals the range and gravity of issues that require continued negotiations. The need to do so in a transparent and inclusive manner should be a minimum standard to guide further deliberations. In this regard, our Group, which counts small delegations within its membership, is concerned about being able to participate effectively in parallel meetings and processes.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group attaches particular importance to ensuring that the organization is oriented to function as an efficient modern entity in accord with its Charter responsibilities in contemporary circumstances. Accordingly, the Rio Group is committed to active collaboration with other delegations on the items on our agenda to assure the achievement of these objectives.

The approved budget for the 2006 – 2007 biennium reflects the number and importance of the priorities and mandates of the organization. Its approval entails efficient mechanisms and procedures in the utilization of resources and confers upon this Committee a responsibility to assure enhanced accountability. The shared interest of Member States in the achievement of these goals will require our continued inputs and strong support in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

Our countries see the financial health of the Organization as essential to allow it to fully accomplish its mandate. In honouring the clear obligation Member States bear to provide the finances that will enable the organization to implement its programme budget, the countries of the Rio Group believe that real capacity to pay remains the pivotal consideration in finalizing the scale of assessments of members. Notwithstanding urgent social demands and domestic budget difficulties in many instances, our countries have exerted maximum efforts to fulfill their financial obligations to the Organization. We therefore encourage all member states to strive to fulfill their obligations without conditions.

In regard to the refurbishment of the Headquarters, it is important to proceed with the implementation of the design and pre-construction phase of the Capital Master

Plan. While scope remains to avail ourselves of the full benefit of further analysis of the relative advantages of the possible options, the Group has taken note of the preference of the Secretariat for the fourth strategy - execution of the project by stages. Our Group will continue to take an active interest in advancing discussions related the Capital Master Plan.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations attracts the spotlight of international media for perceived weaknesses in its management practices. The Group welcomes the implementation of measures aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of programmes and the related utilization of resources in all aspects of the work of the organization. We urge continued efforts to improve the management practices and procedures within the Organisation in order to better equip it to achieve the purposes of its founding Charter. In this regard, we commend the endeavours of the Secretary General, especially in improving the system of accountability and the integrity and transparency of the administration of justice within the UN system. We believe that in concert with the expert bodies - ACABQ which must retain its place and function as an independent adviser body of the General Assembly and a CPC strengthened to execute its distinctive role in the review of UN programmes - there is much promise of full success.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group remains committed to collaborate with colleagues and to advance more specific proposals in the negotiations on the various items to achieve our common objectives. We encourage the bureau to allocate appropriate time for the consideration of all agenda items. Having regard to recurrent difficulties in relation to documentation, we also wish to stress the importance of the timely provision of all documentation to enable delegations to undertake the requisite analysis of important issues. In concluding, we wish to assure that we will be always in a spirit of trying to reach consensus and prepared to negotiate based on the interests of the Group.

Thank you.