



**STATEMENT PRESENTED IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**BY**

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**Chargé d'Affaires a.i.**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

**ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

**AGENDA ITEM 149:  
GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT REVIEW**

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Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation has the honour to speak on behalf of the Rio Group: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and my own country Guyana.

The Rio Group takes this opportunity to thank the representatives of the Secretariat, OIOS, JIU and the ACABQ for the introduction of their respective presentations.

The Group wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of South Africa on behalf of the Group of the 77 and China. Allow me to highlight some points of interest for the Rio Group.

First, the Rio Group is mindful of the need for and supports the strengthening of results-based budgeting and management. In this regard, our Group anticipates the receipt of specific proposals to enable further consideration.

With respect to the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, our Group endorses the recommendation of the ACABQ. We wish to stress however the need for equitable geographical representation in the IAAC. Latin American and Caribbean countries stand ready to participate in such a Committee. We also note the areas highlighted by the Board of Auditors, JIU and OIOS.

Mr. Chairman, for the countries of the Rio Group, it is important to bolster the accountability of the Secretariat to Member States. We believe in an UN where mandated programmes and activities are fully implemented by the Secretariat, in particular at senior levels. It therefore must be our common purpose to strengthen accountability at all levels, without exceptions.

I now wish to address the proposal to reduce the Fifth Committee to a "small and representative Group of States". The Rio Group finds the proposal to be entirely unacceptable. We believe in and subscribe to a democratic United Nations, where every voice is heard irrespective of the size of the contribution to the budget of the Organization. In our view, the practice of multilateralism at the international level is the correlative of democracy at home. Accordingly, we hold

in high esteem multilateralism and the sovereign equality of Member States. In the circumstances, our Group sees little merit in the continued discussion of the inherent ideas and believes we should no longer pursue this proposal.

Finally, the Rio Group fully supports the strengthening of oversight in the Organization. We recognize and maintain the primary oversight role performed by the General Assembly. Programme managers must implement recommendations of the oversight bodies with the utmost care and urgency. The General Assembly should be able to monitor and receive information on the status of the implementation of recommendations. We also understand that the established bodies, JIU, BoA and OIOS should have an interaction and exchange information, as appropriate.

Further, our Group is convinced that we should carefully consider the proliferation of panels and external companies that are being hired to perform matters that are within the purview of established internal oversight bodies. In this regard, the United Nations differs significantly from commercial enterprises in that it is not established to be a profit-making entity in the first instance but an organization that promotes development, peace and security and human rights.

The Rio Group is committed to working to ensure that the organization is suitably equipped to achieve these objectives by discharging its mandates as efficiently as possible. To this end, our countries will remain actively and constructively engaged in the discussions and processes in order to contribute to improving governance issues within the United Nations.

I thank you.