



**SECRETARIA PRO - TEMPORE
CHILE
2010 - 2012**

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STATEMENT BY

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ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

55TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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DISCURSO DE

**S.E. EMBAJADOR SR. OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ
REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

A NOMBRE DEL GRUPO DE RIO

**55° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN SOBRE LA CONDICION JURIDICA
Y SOCIAL DE LA MUJER**

Sede de Naciones Unidas, Nueva York, 22 de Febrero de 2011

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Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Rio Group on the Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "*Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century*".

On behalf of the Rio Group, I congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and wish you success in the performance of your duties at this and the next session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group countries are deeply committed to gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as the respect of all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women.

The Rio Group reaffirms the importance of a full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly. Moreover, we reaffirm the importance that States Parties fully comply with their treaty obligations under the International Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.

2010 was a year of stocktaking of progress achieved on gender equality and the empowerment of women and to also decisively tackle pending issues. We commemorated the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and its Platform for Action.

We also commemorated ten years of the Millennium Declaration and in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals: Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", Member States ratified the consensus at the multilateral level regarding the priority to be given to gender equality and the empowerment of women as a prerequisite for the attainment of said Goals and regarding the fact that the challenge is to move the gender agenda forward in a coherent manner and in the same direction.

Accordingly, the Rio Group considers it necessary to continue efforts to promote and strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment as key factors for the achievement of social and economic development. The Rio Group, convinced that the economic and social development of our countries and the attainment of full democracy are only possible in conditions of genuine equality among men and women, is committed to include and mainstream the gender perspective in their design, implementation and evaluation of public policy. It is necessary to promote women's participation in government decisions and expanding their presence in public offices, including at the highest levels of the government. Likewise, the promotion of agreements and actions to promote women's participation in decision-making processes at the highest levels in political, economic, cultural and social sectors, must continue to be a priority in the national and international agendas.

In light of the above, the Member States of the Rio Group have undertaken measures for the improvement of our legal and regulatory frameworks, through the enactment of laws on gender equality that support our efforts towards the elimination of discrimination against women.

Other national initiatives are the design and management of public policies that are carried out with direct participation of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women in cooperation with international and regional organizations, civil society, including non governmental organizations, and the communities.



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United Nations Gender Architecture

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group welcomes the recent establishment of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women, and we are confident that it will strengthen the United Nations operational ability to support the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women in the world.

Regarding the formulation of its future Strategic Plan, the Rio Group considers that any methodology to be adopted by the Executive Board for the design of programs in the ground and for the allocation of resources for gender issues must not be limited to macroeconomic considerations but must include indicators that are specific to the advancement and empowerment of women worldwide.

Further, the Rio Group trusts that the integration of the mandate of the former INSTRAW – part of UN-Women- will result in a global training and research work of greater impact supported by an availability of generous resources and managed by an efficient and able staff. The Rio Group is also confident that the training and research will continue to be carried out globally from the physical installations located in the Dominican Republic, taking advantage of the recognized added value of the work experience, the programs, the convenient geographical location and the low operational costs that it offers.

The Member States of the Rio Group will continue to support the work of relevant agencies and organizations of the System and the CEDAW Committee in their important role regarding the implementation of their mandates and the support to governments to advance in gender equality, prevent discrimination against women, and promote the achievement of all their human rights.

Global Challenges

The situation of women and girls is an issue of increasing importance for our societies, specially the eradication of all forms of violence against women, the trafficking on women and girls, the feminization of poverty and HIV/AIDS, the situation of migrant, rural and indigenous women, women with disabilities and women of African descent, the access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health, the elimination of barriers between women and men related to employment and the importance of sharing family chores between men and women.

We recognize the need to expand efforts and coordinate all necessary actions to address these important issues at the national and international level, and we call upon international organizations and developed countries to support national programs for women.

Thus, the Rio Group draws attention to the need to strengthen international dialogue, consensus and cooperation, including regional, North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to define and implement further actions that allow us to address the needs of women and girls in all policies and measures aimed at overcoming the challenges posed by the economic and financial crises, food insecurity, climate change, international trade barriers and distortions, energy crises and other common problems.



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Regional Challenges

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group announces the adoption of the "Brasilia Consensus" during the Eleventh Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brazil, the 13 to 16 July 2010, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with support of the Brazilian government. The document calls for women's greater economic empowerment and workplace equality as well as increased participation in political processes, and urges to eliminate all forms of violence against women. It demands that preventive, punitive, protective and caring measures be taken against all forms of violence against women, and that effective access to justice and free legal aid be ensured for women suffering from violence. The Brasilia Consensus urges women's citizenship to be strengthened and their participation in decision-making be expanded.

It furthermore agrees to carry out training and capacity building activities for exchanging and disseminating experiences for the formulation of public policies in the promotion of gender equality.

In this regard, the Rio Group is happy to announce that the Dominican Republic has offered to host the XII Conference.

Violence against Women

The Rio Group is firmly committed to the efforts to eradicate violence against women in all its forms and manifestations. It is necessary to implement concrete actions at all levels to prevent and eradicate this scourge. I would like to emphasize the leadership of our region in this area. Latin-American and Caribbean countries have been pioneers at the regional and international level in the development of instruments and mechanisms to prevent and eradicate violence against women, as well as to promote the full enjoyment of their human rights.

Accordingly, the State members of the Rio Group are committed to intensifying measures aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling and exploitation of migrants, in all its forms and ensuring full protection and care for the victims of these crimes, especially women, children and adolescents. At the same time, we will establish appropriate points of contact for coordination between countries of origin, transit and destination to combat these crimes.

In order to fulfill said commitments, we have agreed to promote policies aimed at changing the socio cultural patterns that reproduce violence and discrimination against women and to create national gender-based violence surveillance systems to collect, compile and analyze data on gender-based violence in an effort to influence national and local policies and programs.

We believe that the aforementioned efforts can only be successful accompanied by the adoption and promotion of necessary measures to ensure budget allocations for programs aimed at preventing violence against women.

In this area, the Rio Group welcomes the ongoing campaign "Unite to end Violence against Women" (2008-2015), lead by the Secretary General, which wide visibility has allowed the UN System to intensify its support to initiatives, programs and national campaigns on this issue.



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Women and development

The prevalence of the feminization of poverty and its disproportionate impact on women remains one of the greatest challenges. The Rio Group considers it essential to promote the integration of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all political, social and economic programs, so as to ensure the full empowerment of women, including their full representation and equal participation in all spheres of society and their access to social services, as essential factors in the eradication of poverty.

In 2010, the Members of ECLAC, agreed to develop active labor markets and productive employment policies to boost the female labor-market participation rate, the formalization of employment and women's occupation of positions of power and decision-making.

The Group reaffirms the importance of the promotion of women's economic empowerment and income generation, including equal pay for equal work in order to close the wage gap between women and men, and the eradication of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services.

We must assign priority to the eradication of hunger and poverty and to actions that ensure that all men and women have adequate food and housing, as well as access to health, including its sexual and reproductive dimension, education and dignified work, in order to achieve decent standards of living.

In this regard, we welcome the adoption by consensus by the Commission on the Status of Women of resolution 54/4 on the economic empowerment of women and encourage its full implementation.

We also welcome Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/15/23, that established a Working Group of independent experts on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice. We expect this new mechanism to identify, promote and exchange views with Member States and relevant state holders on best practices related to the elimination of laws that discriminate against women.

Rural women

In many states of the Rio Group rural women, including indigenous women form a significant part of our population and have been making meaningful contributions to development. Notwithstanding, rural women globally continue to face many challenges. Thus, we urge the international community to intensify efforts to remove the existing barriers to their empowerment.

Migrant Women

We attach particular importance to the protection of migrant women and girls from migrant families. The contribution of migrant women workers to the development of the countries of destination and to their countries of origin must be fully recognized. We need to put an end to all forms of violence and discrimination, affecting migrant women and girls in many contexts. Human rights of migrants deserve full protection, in accordance with obligations under international law.



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Women with Disabilities

We also stress the importance of adopting measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, or excluded from participation in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

Women and Girls in Education, Training, Science and Technology

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced in the need to promote women's access to science, technology and innovation, encouraging the interest of girls and young women in scientific and technological fields.

The Rio Group believes in the utmost importance of promoting actions that facilitate the access of women of all ages to communications and new information technologies, including education and training in the use of such technologies for networking, advocacy and exchange of information, educational activities, and the specialized use of these technologies in economic activities.

Further the Group stresses the need to formulate and strengthen policies aimed at eliminating sexist and discriminatory contents in the media and train communications professionals correspondingly.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, the Rio Group:

- Reiterates the need for consolidating and strengthening national gender mechanisms to promote policies aimed at achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.
- Emphasizes the need to strengthen international cooperation in support of national initiatives in developing countries, aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.
- Stresses the importance of involving all sectors of society, including private sector, nongovernmental organizations, academy and research institutions, and social, cultural and political organizations, in the achievement of the advancement for women under the coordination of Member States in accordance with national legislation.
- Appeals to Member States, multilateral agencies and civil society to build on the progress made and not retreat, and to tackle the new challenges, inter alia, by supporting women heads of household and enhancing the social, political and economic participation of women.

Mr. Chairman,

While gender differences persist, mankind would not overcome underdevelopment and social exclusion. Therefore, the Rio Group countries will remain committed to implementing measures that ensure the empowerment of women and gender equality and will continue to comply with all the commitments adopted by our countries at the international level, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.++++

Sr. Presidente,

Tengo el honor de intervenir en nombre de los países miembros del Grupo de Río con motivo del Seguimiento de la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer y del vigésimo periodo extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General, titulado "*La mujer en el año 2000: igualdad entre los géneros, desarrollo y paz para el siglo XXI*".

A nombre el Grupo de Río, le felicito a usted así como a los demás miembros de la Mesa por su elección, deseándoles éxito en el desempeño de sus funciones.

Sr. Presidente,

Los países del Grupo de Río estamos profundamente comprometidos con la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer así como con el respeto de todos los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales de las mujeres.

El Grupo de Río reafirma la importancia de la plena y efectiva aplicación de la Declaración y la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing, así como de los resultados del vigésimo tercer período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General. Además, reafirmamos la importancia de que los Estados Partes den pleno cumplimiento a sus obligaciones internacionales derivadas de la Convención Internacional contra todas las formas de discriminación hacia la Mujer (CEDAW) y su protocolo facultativo.

El año 2010 fue un año de balance en relación al avance alcanzado en materia de igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer y asimismo para abordar los temas pendientes. Hemos conmemorado los 15 años de la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial de la Mujer, realizada en Beijing el año 1995 y su Plataforma de acción.

Asimismo conmemoramos diez años de la Declaración del Milenio y en el documento final de la Reunión Plenaria de Alto Nivel de la sexagésimo quinta Asamblea General sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: Manteniendo la promesa: unidos para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio", los Estados Miembros ratificaron el consenso a nivel multilateral en cuanto a la prioridad que debe otorgarse a la igualdad de género y al empoderamiento de la mujer como un prerrequisito para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio e impulsar la agenda de género de un modo coherente.

Consecuentemente, el Grupo de Río considera necesario continuar con los esfuerzos para promover y reforzar la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer como factores claves para alcanzar el desarrollo social y económico. El Grupo de Río, convencido que el desarrollo social y económico de nuestros países y la consecución de una democracia plena solamente son posibles en condiciones de igualdad genuina entre hombres y mujeres, está comprometido a incluir y transversalizar la perspectiva de género en el diseño, implementación y evaluación de sus políticas públicas. Es necesario promover la participación de las mujeres en la toma de decisiones gubernamentales y expandir su presencia en cargos públicos, incluyendo en los niveles gubernativos más altos. De este modo, la promoción de compromisos y acciones para promover la participación de las mujeres en los procesos de toma de decisiones en los niveles más altos de los sectores políticos, económicos, culturales y sociales debe continuar siendo una prioridad en las agendas nacionales e internacionales.

A la luz de lo anterior, los Estados Miembros del Grupo de Río hemos tomado medidas para mejorar nuestros marcos legales y regulatorios, a través de leyes sobre igualdad de género que apoyan los esfuerzos hacia la eliminación de la discriminación de las mujeres.

Otras iniciativas nacionales son el diseño y administración de políticas públicas que se llevan a cabo con la participación de mecanismos institucionales para el adelanto de la mujer en cooperación con

organizaciones internacionales y regionales, sociedad civil, incluyendo organizaciones no gubernamentales, y la comunidad.

Arquitectura de Género de Naciones Unidas

Sr. Presidente,

El Grupo de Río da la bienvenida al reciente establecimiento de la Junta Ejecutiva de la Entidad para la Igualdad de Género y Empoderamiento de la Mujeres de Naciones Unidas, ONU Mujeres, y estamos convencidos que fortalecerá la capacidad operacional de Naciones Unidas para apoyar la consecución de la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer en todo el mundo.

En relación a la formulación de su futuro Plan Estratégico, el Grupo de Río considera que cualquier metodología que sea adoptada por la Junta Ejecutiva para el diseño de programas en terreno y para la asignación de recursos para asuntos de género no debe estar reducida a consideraciones macroeconómicas sino que debe incluir indicadores específicos para el adelanto y el empoderamiento de las mujeres en todo el mundo.

Más aún, el Grupo de Río confía que la integración del mandato de ex INSTRAW – ahora parte de ONU Mujeres – de como resultado un trabajo de capacitación e investigación a nivel global de mayor impacto apoyado por la disponibilidad de recursos sustanciales y administrados por un equipo eficaz y capacitado. El Grupo de Río confía además que la capacitación y la investigación se seguirán llevando a cabo a nivel global desde las instalaciones físicas de la República Dominicana, nutriéndose del valor agregado de la experiencia laboral, los programas y la conveniente ubicación geográfica y los bajos costos que ésta ofrece.

Los Estados Miembros del Grupo de Río continuaremos apoyando el trabajo de la agencias y organizaciones relevantes del Sistema y el Comité de la CEDAW en su importante rol en relación a la implementación de sus mandatos y el apoyo a los gobiernos en avanzar en la igualdad de género, prevenir la discriminación contra la mujer y la promoción de todos sus derechos humanos.

Desafíos Globales

La situación de la mujer ocupa crecientes espacios en nuestras sociedades, en especial, la erradicación de la violencia contra la mujer, la trata y el tráfico de mujeres y niñas, la feminización de la pobreza y del VIH/SIDA, la situación de las mujeres migrantes, rurales e indígenas, mujeres con discapacidad y mujeres afro descendientes, el acceso a los servicios de salud, incluida la salud sexual y reproductiva, la eliminación de las barreras que impiden la igualdad de condiciones entre mujeres y hombres en el mundo laboral y la importancia de que las responsabilidades familiares sean compartidas entre hombres y mujeres.

Reconocemos la necesidad de ampliar los esfuerzos y coordinar todas las acciones necesarias para encarar estos temas relevantes a nivel nacional e internacional y formulamos un llamado a los organismos internacionales y a los países desarrollados para que respalden a los distintos programas nacionales en favor de las mujeres.

Por ello, el Grupo de Río hace un llamado a reforzar el diálogo internacional, el consenso y la cooperación, incluyendo la cooperación regional, Norte-Sur, Sur-Sur y triangular, de modo tal de definir e implementar acciones adicionales para permitir abordar las necesidades de las mujeres y niñas en todas las políticas y medidas focalizadas a superar los desafíos impuestos por la crisis económica y financiera, la inseguridad alimentaria, el cambio climático, las barreras y distorsiones al comercio internacional, la crisis energética y otros problemas comunes.

Mujeres con Discapacidad

Asimismo reiteramos la importancia de adoptar medidas para garantizar que las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad no sean sometidas a formas múltiples o agravadas de discriminación ni excluidas de la participación en la implementación de los objetivos de desarrollo internacionalmente acordados.

Las Mujeres y las Niñas en la Educación, la Capacitación, la Ciencia y la Tecnología

Estamos convencidos en la necesidad de promover el acceso de las mujeres a la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación, estimulando el interés de las niñas y las jóvenes en estos campos científicos y tecnológicos.

El Grupo de Río cree en la importancia de promover acciones que faciliten el acceso de las mujeres de todas las edades a las comunicaciones y a las nuevas tecnologías de la información, como la educación y la capacitación sobre el uso de tales tecnologías para la creación de redes, la promoción y el intercambio de información, las actividades educativas, y el empleo especializado en las actividades económicas.

Más aún el Grupo reitera la necesidad de formular políticas orientadas a eliminar contenidos sexistas y discriminatorios en medios de comunicación y capacitar a los profesionales de la comunicación en tal sentido.

Finalmente, el Grupo de Río:

- Reitera la importancia de contar con Mecanismos Nacionales de Género consolidados para avanzar en las políticas de igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer.
- Enfatiza la necesidad de reforzar la cooperación internacional en apoyo de iniciativas nacionales en países en desarrollo, destinadas a promover la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer.
- Refuerza la importancia de involucrar a todos los sectores de la sociedad, incluyendo el sector privado, las organizaciones no gubernamentales, la academia y las instituciones de investigación, las organizaciones sociales, culturales y políticas, en la consecución del adelanto de la mujer, bajo la coordinación de los Estados Miembros de acuerdo con su legislación nacional.
- Hace un llamado a los Estados Miembros, a los organismos multilaterales y a la sociedad civil a consolidar los avances, a no retroceder, y a abordar los nuevos desafíos que se presentan para erradicar todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres, para apoyar a la jefatura de hogar femenina, para avanzar en la participación social, política y económica de las mujeres.

Sr. Presidente,

Mientras persistan las diferencias de género, la humanidad entera no podrá superar el subdesarrollo y la exclusión social. Por ello, los países del Grupo de Río seguirán estando comprometidos con la implementación de medidas que garanticen el empoderamiento y la igualdad de la mujer y continuarán dando cumplimiento a todos los compromisos asumidos por nuestros países a nivel internacional, incluidos los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Muchas gracias.

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