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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MEXICO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

**63rd SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ITEM 56**

“ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN”

13 OCTOBER 2008

(check against delivery)

STATEMENT BY THE RIO GROUP ON ITEM 56 (a,b) “ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN” AT THE 63RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chairperson,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of The Rio Group, namely: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and my own country, Mexico.

We wish to thank the Secretary General for the reports presented under this agenda item.

Chairperson,

We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly require systematic integration of gender perspectives in social, political and economic development at all levels. We also, reaffirm our commitment towards the implementation of actions agreed in the framework of the Quito Consensus.

Furthermore, the Rio Group strongly encourages the appointment of women in the professional and higher categories of United Nations Secretariat.

We are committed to the efforts to eradicate violence against women in all its forms and take notes of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary General.

We also agree that we have to continue strengthening and incorporating on gender mainstreaming perspectives in the preparation and follow-up to major international conferences and summits, particularly in the area of financing for development and climate change.

We give high priority to enhancing our national legal and policy frameworks for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Likewise, we reaffirm our commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including efforts to end impunity and on the need to put more emphasis on the issue of ending domestic violence. In this regard, we are looking forward the outcome on the work carried on by the Statistical Commission, which is conducting an in-depth technical review of proposed indicators to measure violence against women.

States from our Group have enhanced legal and policy frameworks for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women including in their national constitutions, by enacting gender equality laws and by reviewing and revising discriminatory laws. Gender equality has also been integrated into national development plans. These plans also address the issue of violence against women and there have been efforts to mainstream measures to eliminate violence against women in them. Similarly, there has been an increase in budget allocations for the implementation of policies and laws. The countries in our region experience a trend towards enacting and/or amending laws to criminalize acts of violence against women and continue working towards the establishment of prosecutors and courts for cases of violence against women and providing legal support and assistance to victims.

Chairperson,

We welcome the adoption during the last General Assembly of resolution 62/277 on "System-wide coherence" and look forward to the further detailed modalities paper requested through that resolution on the different Institutional options to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and empowerment of women, including on funding, governance structure, staffing, specific functions, relationship with the Commission on the Status of Women and other relevant bodies focusing in particular on the "composite entity" option in order to promote a substantive discussion during this session of the General Assembly.

The Rio Group countries have also work in important awareness-raising activities in the protection of prevention of violence against women from multiple discrimination exacerbated by factors such as age, ethnicity, migrant or minority status, disability or HIV status. States in our region have important plans in curbing violence against women including through the protection of women's sexual and reproductive rights, countering the feminization of HIV/AIDS and access to justice. We welcome also the special attention paid by States in different regions in preventing violence against migrant women and encourage other States to adopt plans addressing this important issue.

Convinced of the essential role of UNIFEM as a component of the United Nations system, the Rio Group welcomes and looks forward to the implementation of the recommendations made by its Consultative Committee at its forty-eighth session and the launching of UNIFEM's report "Progress of the World's Women 2008-2009: Who answers to women?"

We welcome the work carried out and achievements by INSTRAW and also support the efforts of its Executive Committee in particular its strategic framework for 2008-2011. We would also like to recognize the important work carried out on the issue of mobilization of resources. We invite the Secretary General to continue strengthening the role of the institute, and look forward to an early appointment of a new director. We would also like to pay tribute to the work

carried out by Ambassador Carmen Moreno as previous Director of the INSTRAW.

We would also like to announce the launching of a regional campaign on 19 September in Santiago de Chile entitled "Deliver Now for Women and Children", coordinated by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the WHO, to accelerate the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 in our region through a platform of regional cooperation for improving maternal, newborn and child health.

Furthermore, we would like to welcome the adoption of the First Hemispheric Report on the conclusion and recommendations on the improvement of the elimination of all forms of violence against women, held on 10 and 11 July in Caracas, Venezuela, during the Second Conference of States Parties for the Convention Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and eradication of Violence against women "Convention of Belem Do Pará".

Finally, we would like to recognize the contribution of rural women to the development of their communities and look forward to the 15 October which will be the First International Day of Rural Women as established by the General Assembly.

New York, 13 October 2008

