



SECRETARIA PARA ASUNTOS  
CHILE  
2010 - 2012

STATEMENT BY

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ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

55<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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Cotejar con el mundo

DECLARACION

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

A NOMBRE DEL GRUPO DE RIO

55° PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA COMISION 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 Decisions for the Twenty-First Century".

On behalf of the Rio Group, I 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 its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Moreover, we reaffirm the Rio Group's commitment to fully comply with our treaty obligations under the International Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.

We also commemorate 15 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 have reached a 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 is convinced that the economic and social development of our countries and the attainment of full democracy are only possible in conditions of equality. The full and effective participation of women, is a commitment that should remain central to the "gender perspective" in the 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 of national, regional 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 implementation 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 women around 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 include indicators that are specific to the area of concern and empowerment of women worldwide.

Furthermore, the Rio Group trusts that the integration of the mandate of the Dominican Republic, 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 team. The Rio Group is also confident that the training and research will continue to be carried out globally from several installations. In this regard, the Dominican Republic is ready to take the lead in the work, leveraging 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 works 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 and discrimination against women.

## Global Challenges

The situation of women and girls is an issue of increasing importance for our continent, especially for the eradication of all forms of violence against women, the trafficking of women and girls, extreme poverty and HIV/AIDS. The situation of women and girls in Africa is particularly concerning, especially in the areas of access to health services, reproductive health, the elimination of barriers between women and employment, and the promotion of family linkages 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 can 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 tripartite cooperation in order to define and implement further actions that allow us to address the needs of women and girls in a timely and effective manner, and measures aimed at overcoming the challenges posed by the economic and financial crises, food insecurity, climate change, migration and other barriers and challenges that women and girls face.

## 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 the 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 violence against women. It demands 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 in the area of public policies for 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 fully committed to the efforts to eradicate violence against women in all its forms and manifestations. It is needed to implement concrete actions at all levels to prevent and eradicate this scourge. I would like to emphasize the leadership of our region, Latin America and the 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.

Given that 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 our countries in 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 higher standards of programs aimed at preventing violence against women.

The Rio Group Group welcomes the ongoing campaign "United and Violence against Women" (2008-2015), lead by the Secretary General, which will increase visibility and the UN System to intensify its support to initiatives 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 all spheres of society and their access to social services, as essential factors in the eradication of poverty.

In 2010, the Member States of the Rio Group 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 notion 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 poverty in women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equality for all women, including those in rural areas as vital development agents, 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 social 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 implementation.

We also welcome Human Rights Council Resolution 10/4, which 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, prevent and exchange views with Member States and relevant state non-State actors on best practices related to the elimination of laws and discrimination 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 and encourage Member States to identify efforts to remove the existing barriers to their empowerment.

## Migrant Women

We attach particular importance to the protection of migrant women and girls from human trafficking. 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 and labor 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 excluded from the international agenda on development and their participation in the

Women and Girls in Information and Communication 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 almost total inaccessibility of scientific and technological knowledge to women and girls of all ages to communications and information technologies, including education and training in the use of these technologies, the 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,

Finality of the Rio Group:

- Reiterates the need for consolidating and strengthening national gender mechanisms to promote policies aimed at achieving better parity and empowerment of women;
- Promotes initiatives aimed to strengthen international cooperation in support of national initiatives in developing countries, aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.
- Encourages the participation of 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 institutions 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 policies 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 dirigirme al Sr. Presidente del Grupo de Río con motivo de Seguimiento de la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer y del vigésimo séptimo período 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 honore el Grupo de Río le felicito a usted así como a los demás miembros de la Mesa con su dirección, deseándoles éxito en el desempeño de sus funciones.

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 Decisión y el Plan de Acción 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 cumplan con el cumplimiento a sus obligaciones internacionales derivadas de los instrumentos internacionales y de 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 en 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 Sexagesimo quinta Sesión General sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Manteniendo la promesa unida para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, los Estados Miembros ratifican 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 prerrequisito para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en plena sintonía con la agenda de género de un mundo concreto.

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 clave para alcanzar el desarrollo social y económico. El Grupo de Río, con conciencia de 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 promover 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 en los niveles más altos de los sectores políticos, económicos, culturales y sociales. De este modo, la promoción de compromisos 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 y reglamentos de género que apoyan los esfuerzos para 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.

El Grupo de Río de Naciones Unidas

El 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 el Empoderamiento de la Mujer de Naciones Unidas, **MUJERES MUJERES**. Queremos congratularlos y felicitarlos por la gran voluntad 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 se plantee por la Junta Ejecutiva para el diseño de programas en terreno para la prestación de servicios para **los grupos de género** no debe estar reducida a consideraciones macroeconómicas y que el enfoque incluir implicaciones específicas para el desarrollo y el empoderamiento de las mujeres en todo el mundo.

Más aún, el Grupo de Río confía en la ejecución del mandato de ex INSTRAW — ahora parte de ONU Mujeres — como resultado de un trabajo de capacitación e investigación a nivel global de mayor impacto apoyado por la disponibilidad de recursos sustanciales **proporcionados** por un equipo eficaz y capacitado. El Grupo de Río espera que la capacitación y la investigación se seguirán llevando a cabo a nivel global desde las instancias locales de la **comunidad** y **dominancia** nutricional de un valor agregado de la experiencia laboral, los programas y la **convergencia** de los esfuerzos y **los valores** que esta ofrece.

Los Estados Miembros de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas apoyarán el trabajo de la **agencias y organizaciones** del sistema y el sistema de la **Comisión de la Mujer** en **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 en las sociedades**, en especial, la erradicación de la violencia contra la mujer, **la discriminación** y **la pobreza** y del **VIH/SIDA** afectan a las mujeres **intermedias** e **indígenas**, mujeres con discapacidad y mujeres **afectadas** en **el acceso a los servicios** de **salud sexual y reproductiva**, la **eliminación** de la **discriminación** y **condiciones** entre **mujeres y hombres** en el mundo laboral y la **importancia** de **la responsabilidad** de **familias** **compartidas** entre **hombres y mujeres**.

La necesidad de ampliar los esfuerzos y coordinar todas las acciones necesarias para encarar estos temas **ante** la **comunidad internacional** y formulamos un llamado a los organismos internacionales y a los **partes** **interesados** para que respondan a los distintos programas nacionales en favor de las mujeres.

Por ello, el Grupo de Río hace un **llamado** a **la cooperación** y **la cooperación**, **incubadora** de **la cooperación** **Norte-Sur**, **Sur-Sur** y **triangular**, de modo tal de **implementar** **las necesidades** de **las mujeres y niñas** en todas las políticas y **programas**, **el cambio climático**, las **barreras** y **distorsiones** al **comercio internacional**, la **crisis energética** y **otros** **temas** **comunes**.



## Mujeres con Discapacidad

Asimismo reiteramos la importancia de adoptar medidas para garantizar que las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad no sean sometidas a torturas múltiples, ni a formas de discriminación ni excluidas de la participación en la implementación de las obligaciones de desarrollo internacionalmente acordadas.

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

Estamos comprometidos con la necesidad de promover el acceso de las mujeres a la educación, la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación, estimulando el interés de las niñas y las jóvenes en estos campos de los 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 que eliminen contenidos sexistas y discriminatorios en medios de comunicación y programas de enseñanza, y promover un cambio de mentalidad.

Finalmente, el Grupo de Río:

- Reitera el compromiso de promover el liderazgo de las mujeres en la formulación de políticas para avanzar en las políticas de igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer.
- Enfatiza la necesidad de retomar la cooperación internacional en apoyo de medidas 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 gubernamentales, la academia y las instituciones de investigación, las organizaciones sociales, culturales y políticas, en la consecución del liderazgo 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 las sociedades civiles a consolidar los avances y a avanzar en la erradicación de todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres, para avanzar en la participación política y económica de las mujeres.

Sr. Presidente,

Mientras persisten las diferencias de género, la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres 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 en virtud de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Muchas gracias.

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