



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE XXVII MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE PERMANENT MECHANISM OF CONSULTATION AND POLITICAL COORDINATION –RIO GROUP– HELD IN THE CITY OF ZACATECAS, MEXICO, ON NOVEMBER 13, 2008.

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries that comprise the Permanent Mechanism of Consultation and Political Coordination maintained a productive dialogue on a wide-ranging agenda and confirmed that for over two decades the Rio Group has become consolidated as an effective instrument in political interlocution and concerted action, which are irreplaceable conditions and requirements in the settling of differences and in the definition of strategies and policies which, as a region, make it possible to promote common positions and strengthen the presence of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the concert of nations.
2. The Foreign Ministers received with approval the report submitted for their consideration by the Pro Tempore Secretariat, a document that illustrates the wide range of topics in which the Mechanism has been called to act. They emphasized that its role has not been limited to topics exclusively concerning the region but, in accordance with its nature and vocation, has made declarations on events that have threatened stability, democratic values or the constitutional order in different latitudes. They also expressed their conviction that the Mechanism has become consolidated as an indisputable reference point, both as regards interlocution among its members, and with other countries and groups of countries.
3. The Ministers highlighted that, in keeping with the prime topics on the international agenda, the Río Group has been able to further in multilateral agencies common issues of the highest interest to our countries. Likewise, with a sense of opportunity and pertinence it has presented common positions, based on its own view, in the most diverse world forums. They were gratified by the strengthening of the Mechanism's capacity to reach consensus on positions and bolster interlocution and political dialogue at the highest levels. They underscored that the Río Group had promoted with determination the identification of opportunities and channels of communication and convergence among the different regional and subregional integration schemes, a vocation now reaffirmed in the work the High-Level Representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean will begin in this very city.
4. The Foreign Ministers stated that in light of the actions taken, it was necessary to reflect with a proactive spirit on the major issues on the international agenda, placing special emphasis on those that most directly influence and affect the superior interests of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. They made reference, among other issues, to the financial crisis and its different problems and expressed their determination to actively participate and contribute to a process of profound and wide-ranging transformation of the international financial architecture that establishes instruments of prevention and immediate response to future crises and guarantees effective regulation of capital markets. They added that this was particularly important since, despite not having been part of the origin of the present crisis, they were being affected by it.



5. The Foreign Ministers pointed out the importance of full equality in the international debate on the structural search for solutions to the financial crisis and underscored the importance of the topic being effectively addressed within the framework of the United Nations system.
 6. They recognized that despite the times of economic turbulence, it was necessary to contribute responsibly and actively to building new rules in the global economy and in the international financial system. In this context they highlighted the efforts made by the Working Group on Financing for Development, coordinated by Chile, whose tasks seek to contribute to facilitating a satisfactory conclusion to the Conference for Follow-up of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.
 7. The Ministers acknowledged the presence and contributions of the Permanent Secretary of SELA, the General Secretary of ALADI, the General Secretary of FLACSO and the representative of ECLAC. All these agencies are committed to the tasks of analysis and proposal of policies that provide the objective and pertinacious response demanded by the topics of greatest economic and social importance.
 8. The Ministers requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, to kindly convey to Doña Amalia García, Constitutional Governor of the State of Zacatecas, their very sincere gratitude for the generous and gracious manner in which Zacatecas welcomed this XXVII Meeting of the Mechanism.
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