

## Declaration of the Rio Group in solidarity with Australia

The Member States of the Rio Group manifest their solidarity with the people and government of Australia for the consequences of the devastating fires registered in the States of Victoria and New South Wales, which have caused the loss of tenths of lives, leaving hundreds of injured, and causing the displacement of thousands of people, as well as unaccountable material damage.

The Rio Group conveys its most sincere condolences to the relatives of the victims of such regrettable fires.

The Rio Group also expresses its concern for the loss of a vast wood surface, giving as result serious damages to the great biological diversity, and to the Australian ecosystems.

Mexico City, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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