



**Declaration of the Rio Group in solidarity with
the affected populations of Asia and the South Pacific**

The Rio Group expresses its sorrow and its solidarity with the populations that were severely struck by the Ketsana and Ondoy typhoons in the Philippines, which affected Manila and Luzon, as well as by the tsunami which ravaged the Samoa Islands, and the earthquake that impacted Sumatra, Indonesia; all this events have caused terrible loss of human lives and significant material damages.

The Rio Group considers that the concentration of these devastating natural events in such a limited time frame further reveals the urgency for our region to strengthen its collaboration in operative mechanisms, through prevention and rapid response actions aimed at mitigating the damage caused by natural disasters.

The Rio Group expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the victims of these catastrophic natural events and wishes the fast recovery of the affected regions.

Mexico City, October 1st, 2009

* * *