

**REPRESENTATIVES OF RIO GROUP MEMBER STATES
MEETING IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 27TH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RIO GROUP ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
ON THE SITUATION IN HAITI**

The countries of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination - the Rio Group - considered the situation in Haiti, an issue of continuing concern to the Group and on which it has played a key role.

They commended the people of Haiti for their demonstrated attachment to democracy which ensured in large part the success of the recent electoral process. They also congratulated the newly established government under the leadership of President Préval. Its inclusiveness is a sign of the critical importance attributed to national reconciliation and without which there can be no stability or social and economic progress.

Keenly aware of the tremendous needs of the beleaguered country, the members of the Rio Group reaffirmed their commitment to pursue their cooperation in order to consolidate the progress made so far. In this regard, they pledged to continue to contribute to Haiti through their contributions to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and/or through other cooperation programmes.

They also called on the international donor community to ensure that the financial assistance promised is disbursed in a timely manner. Increased aid would increase the economic opportunities, help restore the economic and social fabric, and facilitate the restoration of the state, its institutions and democracy.

The Rio Group expressed its satisfaction over the return of Haiti to the Councils of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) which is also considering how best to respond to the critical needs of their Member State. The Group looked forward to pursuing its cooperation with the Caribbean Community in helping to address the multiple needs of Haiti, firm in the belief that Latin America and the Caribbean have a key role to play in bringing success to the political and economic renewal of Haiti.

**Georgetown, Guyana,
20th June 2006**