



Communiqué on the Enlargement of Río Group

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs within the Framework of the XXVII Ministerial Meeting of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination (Río Group), held in the city of Zacatecas, Mexico:

Underscoring that the Río Group, throughout its twenty years of existence, has become consolidated as a privileged forum for dialogue and concerted action among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as a useful interlocution mechanism for the region in dealings with other countries and blocs of countries;

Recalling the principles and values of Río Group as concerns the strengthening and observance of international law; the preservation of peace; multilateralism; defense of the Rule Law, the institutional order and democracy; promotion and protection of human rights and social justice; international cooperation; and regional integration in the interests of attaining better levels of development and well-being for the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Taking up the commitment laid down in the Declarations of Turkeyen and Santo Domingo, on strengthening the Río Group as an inclusive mechanism representative of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to adapt it to the new regional and international scenario;

Convinced that the participation of a growing number of States of Latin America and the Caribbean is a central element for the strengthening of the Río Group, which enriches its diverse and plural nature and projects its declarations with renewed authority;

Encouraged by the positive results of the dialogue between the Río Group and the Republic of Cuba, held in September 2008 within the framework of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Bearing in mind the expressions of interest and the positive appraisal of the work of political dialogue, consultation and consensus-seeking of the Río Group expressed by Cuba to various member States;

Have resolved:

To consider Cuba, in a formal manner and as of this date, a full member of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination (Río Group), in accordance with the rules, values, principles and proceedings of the mechanism.

Zacatecas, Mexico, November 13, 2008.

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