



Rio Group Declaration on Situation in Bolivia

The governments of Rio Group Member States, reminding the Joint Declaration of Support to the Bolivian Democratic Process, adopted on the XX Summit of the Rio Group Heads of State and Government, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on March 7th, 2008, and their Declarations referring to Bolivia, on April 30th, and August 14th, 2008:

Regret and express their concern for the recent acts of violence which caused the loss of lives in the Bolivian Republic, as well as their condemnation to the attacks to facilities and headquarters of public institutions, in several cities of that country.

Reiterate their deep commitment to democratic principles and values that the Bolivian Nation, as member of Rio Group, shares, defends and promotes. In this sense, they express their support to the government of that country, at the time of ratifying their attachment to the principle of respect to territorial integrity of States.

Stress the need to distend the situation and to reach a solution, within the framework of the Rule of Law, and of the Bolivian institutional order. In this sense, they appeal to all political actors of Bolivian society, to immediately restart the national dialogue process convoked by President Evo Morales, based on the legitimacy and responsibility that the People of Bolivia conferred to them, by means of the revoking referendum, on the mandate of the Republic President and Vice-president, and Departmental Prefects, held on August 10th, 2008.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat of Rio Group has kept in touch with Chile in its character of Pro Tempore President for the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

The governments of Rio Group State Members express their confidence that the Extraordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the UNASUR shall help to work in a joint manner toward distension and re-establishment of dialogue, among political actors in Bolivia.

Mexico City, September 15th, 2008.