



## **Declaration of the Rio Group in support of the democratic institutions in Honduras**

The Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination expresses its strongest condemnation to the coup d'état in the Republic of Honduras, which has interrupted the constitutional and democratic order in that country, given that Mister Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales, Constitutional President of Honduras was illegitimately retired from his office. The Group rejects likewise the use of the armed force in the arbitrary detention of the Chief of the Executive, who was forced out of Honduras.

The Rio Group considers that the rupture of the constitutional order is inadmissible and unacceptable and constitutes a practice that Latin American and Caribbean societies have categorically rejected.

The Rio Group reiterates that strict compliance with democratic values and principles and the unrestricted respect to the constitutional order and the rule of law must prevail above any political difference.

The Member States of the Mechanism express their complete disposition to contribute to the immediate restoration of the institutional order in Honduras. Likewise, they call upon all political actors in the Republic of Honduras to avoid violence and demand the immediate and unconditional restoration of the legitimate and constitutional President, Mister Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales and the rest of the legally constituted authorities of Honduras.

México City, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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