



**59 ASAMBLEA GENERAL
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

**13ª Sesión de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible
Perspectivas Regionales**

→ **Intervención de la Delegación Argentina ante las Naciones Unidas
EN NOMBRE DEL GRUPO DE RIO**

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**59th UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
Regional Perspectives**

→ **Statement by the Delegation of Argentina to the United Nations
ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

New York, April 11 2005
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Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations
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Mr. Chairman

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the nineteen countries members of the Rio Group, namely Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela

During the negotiations leading to the JPOI the countries of the Rio Group, individually and through our participation in different negotiating groups, supported that document to include a clear regional dimension, which was finally present in paragraphs 158 to 161 of the Plan of Implementation.

Following the same line, our region supported CSD 11 decision to channel the contribution of regional commissions through regional implementation meetings, for which the relevant assignment of funds was as well provided for.

At the beginning of the final phase of the first cycle of CSD we believe it is necessary to assess the implementation of the approach adopted in 2003. Such exercise should include the regional component.

The Rio Group has the conviction that a regional instance cooperating with countries in the implementation and assessment of the commitments assumed in Johannesburg constitutes a fundamental pillar.

From this perspective we should reinforce the use of mechanisms so that the regional consideration of sustainable development related issues be established in documents produced through a process of debate, negotiation and intergovernmental approval at the regional level.

Within this mind frame, mechanisms to be adopted should be established in an explicit manner in order for the regional institutions and their member states to be able to reach proposals y develop actions addressing priorities identified by the relevant national authorities. This will strengthen coordination and interagency and intergovernmental cooperation in the region.

The Rio Group acknowledges the contributions that have been received so far from the different regional institutions. The impact of such contribution will be increased in the measure that they receive the effective support of the relevant national authorities in accordance to mechanisms established to this end. Any resolution on this matter should have an appropriate process of previous negotiations and lead to intergovernmental agreements at the regional level, in our case within ECLAC, supporting the building of qualitative consensus in implementation related matters.

The similarities existing within different regions may allow further deepening would enable deepening the debate related to the implementation of the commitments assumed in Johannesburg; they could generate an exchange of experiences among countries facing similar situations; they provide an opportunity to establish natural channels of cooperation and they facilitate the participation of non governmental actors of the region interested in each issue accepted by the states in accordance to the procedures decided in each case.

On the other hand, from a systemic point of view, regional contributions have as well the potential capacity to enrich the debate at the global level that takes place at CSD.

The countries of the Rio Group acknowledge the steps undertaken since CSD-11 by the different regional institutions, in our case ECLAC, in order to fulfill the role assigned to them by JPOI.

Poverty eradication is an indispensable requirement of sustainable development. In this respect, agreed measures at all levels in order to allow countries of our region to achieve their sustainable development

goals are being elaborated as part of poverty eradication strategies promoted by the countries themselves in a manner concordant with the internationally agreed goals and objectives.

At the level of our region the mobilization of additional financial resources to achieve sustainable development goals is a historic challenge. Investments required by our countries are in many cases significant and compete with priorities in the assignment of resources in other fundamental areas such as education, health, urban security, transport, etc.

Both the transfer of technologies adequate to our realities and capacity building are fundamental aspects to achieve development and implement the JPOI commitments.

Concerning water and sanitation the countries of the Rio Group are interested in strengthening regional cooperation focused in the following aspects: water resources assessment, increasing of institutional capacity in water management and changes in unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in the use of water.

At the same time, we consider important to continue to improve interagency coordination for the consideration of water related issues. It is necessary to continue to seek resources for the implementation of pilot projects, as well as for spreading lessons learned through those projects and increase horizontal cooperation.

These aspects have already been identified and a regional strategy is being implemented within the framework of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean of UNEP.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, the Rio Group would like to reiterate its firm commitment with the implementation of JPOI, and we will provide our contribution at all levels to that end.