

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE, H.E. OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ, ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP DURING THE SECOND PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

March 7, 2011

Mr. Co-Presidents,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the States that are members of the Rio Group, and to extend to you, Mr. Co-Presidents, our warmest greetings and pledge our full support for this Preparatory Conference and for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as decided in G.A. resolution A/RES/64/236.

At the start, we would like to commend the Bureau for having reached agreement on a substantive process leading to June 2012.

We would also like to show our appreciation for the host country of the Conference, Brazil, for its constant guidance and contributions to this process.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

This Second Preparatory Conference will provide the opportunity for further discussions on the Objective and Themes of Rio + 20 and, so we hope, give way to a deeper reflection on its guidelines and concepts. It will also allow for an interactive discussion with respect to the expected results of the process and contents and formats of the outcome document.

As we stated recently during the January inter-sessional meeting, the Group believes that the preparatory process of the Rio+20 Conference will be crucial in the definition of the concrete outcomes and commitments we can achieve in 2012.

True to the Rio Principles, whose consistent and effective application should be reinforced by this process, we believe we should focus our discussions in further

advancing the international commitment with sustainable development, poverty eradication, addressing inequalities and preventing new economic and financial crisis.

In this regard we emphasize the importance of considering the necessary means of implementation to support the efforts undertaken by developing countries in achieving sustainable development. The success of Rio + 20 will be measured against our capacity to effectively address vital issues such as access to adequate financing, technology and human capacities development, crucial elements in the discussion of environmental and sustainable development issues.

With respect to new and emerging issues, we believe that the experiences and effects of the financial and economic crisis, food crisis and energy crisis have brought to surface many problems that need to be tackled, as of now, in a comprehensive manner. Climate change, energy security, biodiversity loss, desertification, water scarcity, marine pollution and frequency of disasters are challenges we must face with utmost urgency. We also recognize the imperative to take actions to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation. The urge to attain sustainable development is a condition to ensuring equity.

Mr. Co-Presidents,

With regards to institutional framework, we believe we must advance along this path with a healthy, unbiased approach, taking into account the need to consider the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced manner. We need to find efficient institutional mechanisms for sustainable development that will eliminate duplications, promote synergies and respond, in a dynamic manner, to the concerns of developing countries. In so doing, we must **recognize** the advances obtained by existing international institutions and agreements, **as well as have** awareness as to their true potential.

We consider it's very important that developed countries provide financing **for sustainable development** in a predictable and adequate manner. **This includes**

the provision of ODA; the developed countries must fulfill their commitments, in particular the 0.7 % from their GDP.

In this regard, regional and sub regional mechanisms should be given major attention and support for creating or enhancing those structures that coordinate and assess the main tasks addressed by sustainable development, with adequate funds in order to implement their objectives, in a context where the United Nations would have a central role.

We also believe that the institutional framework should support scientific capacity in areas of sustainable development in developing countries and that the fulfillment of ODA commitments is a key to enhancing capacity building, including scientific, technical and technological capacity, and development for developing countries. **In this regards it is crucial to address the basic needs of technology transfer to developing countries.**

With regards to Green Economy there is not, at this moment, a clear and consensual definition of what a "green economy" approach entails.

We believe that UNCSD provides an opportunity to discuss the possible benefits as well as possible risks involved in such a concept and its policy implications. We also believe the road to an economy that better integrates social and environmental concerns will require a certain degree of flexibility and the consideration of the different levels of economic, social and environmental development in different countries. It should lead to strong, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, by: promoting human resources development, bridging the technology and development gap, enhancing developing countries competitiveness; and help expand market access for their products while rejecting protectionism and trade-distorting measures.

Thank you