



**STATEMENT BY**

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**REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

**AT THE**  
**FOURTEENTH SESSION**

**OF THE**

**COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the countries of the Rio Group: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

Mr. Chairman, the Commission on Sustainable Development avails us of an invaluable process to foster collective gains with respect to sustainable development. In this regard, the coordinated approach to the consideration of the disparate issues pertaining to sustainable development is undoubtedly among its strengths.

Mindful of the stature of the Commission in promoting sustainable development at the global level as well as its considerable potential to contribute to the achievement of agreed international development goals, including the MDGs, the Rio Group is convinced that it is vital to preserve and strengthen the integrity of its processes.

Mr. Chairman, we have, in this Fourteenth Session, the opportunity to contribute to this purpose by critically reviewing the progress that has been made in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Rio Group considers, having taken into account operative paragraph one of ECOSOC resolution 2003/61, which establishes that the organization of work should contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels, that the treatment of specific issues should be examined in a balanced manner. This approach will allow States to have a clear vision of the diagnosis of challenges and possibilities for advancement in the implementation of the commitments made by the international community regarding sustainable development.

The Rio Group wishes to emphasize that in the resolution mentioned, the Economic and Social Council decided that in order to fulfill its mandate, the evaluation to be made during the review sessions will be based, among others, on the Secretary-General's state-of-implementation reports. Those reports should reflect the overall progress in implementation, contain a detailed review of progress of implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle at all levels, and indicate relevant new challenges and opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, on this basis, our Group considers it pertinent to point out that the analysis and debate on topics in the future should guarantee such balance, with specific sessions scheduled to analyze such interrelations among the topics. At the same time, we would wish to request the Secretary General to present in future sessions a report on each topic to be analyzed by the Commission and, if considered necessary, to prepare another document on the interrelations among them.

We anticipate also that in all the cycles, and for every issue, decision and relevant commitment, we should deal with the means of implementation, as indicated in the Agenda 21 and in the Chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as established in resolution 2003/61 of the ECOSOC. To this end, the challenges related to fostering more meaningful cooperation, technology transfer, the transfer of resources and capacity building remain issues of deep interest to our Group.

Mr. Chairman, the issues under consideration in the present implementation cycle of the CSD bear special importance for Latin America and the Caribbean. As we have noted earlier, we see optimal benefit in maintaining the balance between the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection in our approach to the consideration of these issues.

Accordingly, the Rio Group will participate actively in the discussions on these issues in the coming days both on the peculiar merit of the individual themes in sustainable development but also with a view to taking advantage of the synergies that emerge from an integrated treatment.

Our delegations hold this review process as critical to continued progress in achieving sustainable development. We look forward to working with colleagues in securing common understandings and laying the groundwork for the success of future sessions.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.