



**General Assembly – 62<sup>nd</sup> Session  
Sixth Committee**

**Statement by Mr. Napoleon Beras,  
Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the  
United Nations on behalf of THE RIO GROUP**

**Agenda Item 108  
“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM”**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to address this Committee on behalf of the Member States of the Rio Group comprising Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and my own country, the Dominican Republic.

As this is the first opportunity the Rio Group is taking the floor, let us congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Sixth Committee. We would also like to commend the other members of the Bureau for their election and wish you all success in discharging your relevant duties. We assure you of our full commitment and support to the work of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group would like to reiterate its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It respects no boundaries, rules, ideologies or beliefs. Terrorism operates on a transnational level in a manner that no country has the means to combat it alone. Therefore, it is a matter for the international community to deal with through cooperation and coordination amongst States.

The Rio Group reiterates its support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006. The Strategy promotes comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses, at the national, regional and international levels, to counter terrorism, and also takes into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The Rio Group also reiterates its willingness to contribute actively in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

The measures to combat terrorism must be conducted in strict observance of international law, its principles, norms and rules. Only procedures adopted in accordance with the UN Charter and other relevant treaties, in particular the

human rights instruments, can be successful and gather broad support from the international community. Actions taken outside the international legal framework are unjustifiable.

The UN Charter, among other instruments, sets the principles upon which the States should act while countering terrorism. In this sense, we recall that States must refrain from the threat or use of force in international relations in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, uphold the right to self-determination of peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation, the sovereign equality of all States, the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.

Acts of terrorism constitute violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, liberty, security and freedom of movement. That is the main reason why we should fight it with strong determination. We must not accept any measures supposed to counter terrorism that violate international law, particularly human rights law, international humanitarian law or international law of refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

It is the view of the Rio Group that a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy should be implemented to effectively address the causes conducive to the spread of terrorism. We are of the view that this is the most appropriate way of reducing temptations to resort to that form of violence. The

international community should fully implement a holistic approach, encompassing preventive aspects of counter-terrorism, in particular policies that promote the eradication of hunger and poverty, sustained economic growth, sustainable development, democracy, human rights for all and the rule of law, as contained in the Strategy.

In order to eliminate terrorism, it is imperative to reduce the social and economic divide amongst our nations, promote intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions and cultures.

The Rio Group welcomes the two recent developments that have dealt with some of these issues: the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, including in the Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting, held on 26 September, to bridge the gaps among different cultures. We also welcome the High-Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held on 4-5 October, and express our hope that more positive developments like these take place in the near future regarding this matter.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group supports the invitation made by the United Nations Secretary General to member States to make a special effort to try to conclude a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention that strengthens the international legal framework on counter-terrorism.

A comprehensive convention against terrorism is required in order to complement the legal framework already in force, allowing us to have a special

instrument on the matter, providing concrete responses to this challenge faced by humanity.

The results of the eleventh session of Ad Hoc Committee established by UN General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 suggest we still need to work in a cooperatively manner to reach consensus on the issue.

We express our appreciation to the coordinator of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, Ms. Maria Telalian, for her efforts to bring States together. We call upon all Member States to continue the negotiations and efforts to achieve a comprehensive convention on terrorism, and hope substantial results can be attained shortly in order to convene a high-level conference on terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rio Group member States stress that United Nations Security Council sanctions aimed at combating terrorism must be implemented in accordance with international law, due process of law and the rule of law, which must constitute cornerstones in the fight against terrorism and must be observed by all UN bodies, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committee established pursuant resolution 1267 (1999), concerning sanctions against Al Qaeda, the Taliban and associated organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a matter of real concern to all of us, since all States seem to be potential targets of terrorist acts. The Rio Group is determined to continue our efforts to strengthen the international mechanisms set to prevent, combat and eliminate this despicable practice aimed at causing death, destruction of property and undermining international stability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman