



ASAMBLEA GENERAL
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

TERCERA COMISION

Tema 68: Derechos del niño

Intervención del Embajador Enriquillo A. del Rosario C.
Representante Permanente Alterno de la
Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana ante
las Naciones Unidas
EN NOMBRE DEL GRUPO DE RIO

Nueva York, 19 de Octubre de 2007
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UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRD COMMITTEE

Item 68: Rights of children

Statement by Ambassador Enriquillo A. del Rosario C.
Alternate Permanent Representative of the
Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the
United Nations
ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP

New York, October 19, 2007
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Mr. Chairman:

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of The Rio Group, namely: Argentina, Belice, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay, Venezuela and of my own country, The Dominican Republic.

I would like to commend thru you the Secretary General for the preparation of the reports related to agenda item number. 68: "Promotion and Protection of the rights of children".

The Member States of the Rio Group reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Child, the Plan of Action established in the final document of the Special Session of the General Assembly of 2002, contained in the document: "A World Fit for Children", as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman:

The Rio Group considers of great importance that strategies for the eradication of poverty and the social and economic development plans focused on childhood be supplemented with programs for protection against violence, exploitation and discrimination and education programs that always stresses on the most vulnerable sectors and which integrate a gender perspective and a human rights perspective.

Even though infant mortality have decreased in Latin-America and the Caribbean, the region continues fighting against HIV/AIDS, and in this sense we have propelled campaigns to create awareness, both in the prevention and in the elimination of the mother-child transmission and support children affected with this flagellum.

Education is also an element of great importance; therefore, the States must assure that free primary and binding education must be a quality education and a reality without discrimination of any kind, and to endeavor to advance towards the goal of universal access to secondary education. We are convinced that the increase in schooling must be accompanied of an improvement in the quality of the educational programs, so that our children can obtain the knowledge and skills to evolve in this twenty first century.

Mr. Chairman:

The Group would like to express its appreciation to Prof. Pinheiro, Independent Expert for the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, for the report A/62/209 which proposes a necessary strategy to further promote the implementation of the study on violence against children, and would like to reiterate its firm commitment with the eradication of all forms of violence against children.

The Rio Group reaffirms its commitment to the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child recognized in the International Human Rights Law, and referred to in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

Mr. Chairman:

Considering that the countries of the Rio Group are main sponsors together with the European Union, of the Draft Resolution on the Rights of Children, we would like to make some comments on it:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in November 1989, was the first specialized international treaty to recognize human rights of all children and adolescents, using a framework of comprehensive protection in favor of children that requires States to respect, protect and ensure the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The international recognition of ownership of rights for children and the extent of that obligation acquired by States to all members of society and to the families implies a substantial change in the hierarchy and discretion model that had traditionally characterized relations among adults and children.

The Rio Group is proud to highlight, as UNICEF has done on many occasions, that with the rapid process of ratifications of the Convention and the national movements designed to bring national laws, Latin America was the area where there was greater social mobilization around the implementation of the Convention.

Eighteen years after the adoption of the Convention we can say that in Latin America the implementation process continues to be a dynamic process, live and with continuous improvement, not only in relation to the legal reforms and institutional models, but also on any new situation that could directly or indirectly affect the lives of children.

In this regard, we call upon the Commission so the project could be adopted by consensus, and at the same time that it implies an advance in the consideration of issues related to children.

We thank you.