



# **S T A T E M E N T**

**Presented in the Sixth Committee  
by  
Mr. George Talbot, Chargé d' affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana**

**ON BEHALF OF THE RIO GROUP**

**on**

**Agenda Item 100: Measures to Eliminate  
International Terrorism**

**Sixty-first Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly  
New York**

**OCTOBER 12, 2006**

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, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Guyana.

Allow us to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Committee. We are confident that under your assertive leadership the Sixth Committee will achieve the goals that have been set forth for this current session. Our congratulations are also extended to other members of the Bureau. Member States of the Rio Group take this opportunity to express to you and to the entire Bureau our full support and our commitment to successfully carrying forward the work of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, The Rio Group reaffirms its strong condemnation of terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

The Rio Group recognizes the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as one of the most significant actions taken by the General Assembly to enhance international cooperation among Member States in the fight against terrorism. We take this opportunity to express once again our appreciation for the work of the Co-Chairs Ambassadors Yañez-Barnuevo, of Spain, and Menon, of Singapore, and for their vigorous effort in spearheading the consultations that led us to a global strategy for counter-terrorism that is acceptable to all.

Consistent with our participation in all current international efforts in the fight against the threat of terrorism, the Rio Group members reiterate their willingness to contribute actively to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We therefore call on all partners and on the international community as a whole to build from this important step the foundation of an inclusive and dynamic process destined to develop successfully common initiatives and a shared capacity to face new challenges while countering terrorism. Creativity and renewed commitment by all Members States are essential in the task of constantly adapting and reviewing this living strategy, which should be a comprehensive and participative one.

All Member States of the United Nations need to embrace the counter-terrorism strategy to ensure its success. It is important that in implementing this strategy we take a holistic approach which includes the preventive aspect of counter-terrorism, taking into account that terrorism is never justifiable under any circumstances.

To that end, the Rio Group recognises the need for policies that promote the eradication of poverty, sustained economic growth, sustainable development, democracy, global prosperity, human rights for all and the Rule of Law as well as the peaceful resolution of conflicts, elimination of foreign occupation and oppression. Furthermore, the policies should include measures that improve intercultural understanding and ensure the respect for all religions and cultures.

The Rio Group calls upon Members States to settle any disputes by peaceful means in conformity with international law and to refrain from the use or threat of force in international relations in any way that contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the right of peoples to self-determination and the sovereign equality of all States.

The respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms must be the basis on which any actions against terrorism must rest. Terrorist acts themselves constitute a threat to the right to life, liberty

and security that result in the disrespect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and democracy.

When combating terrorism, therefore, it is essential that we all as Member States fully comply with our human rights obligations and respect international law, in particular refugee law and international humanitarian law, bearing in mind the need to avoid the prospect of counter-terrorism actions raising concerns from the perspective of human rights. Regrettably, such compliance has not been uniform throughout the world community. Serious abuses have taken place and continue to occur.

Some efforts to counter terrorism have generated victims of their own, causing further tragedies. Although most of the so-called "collateral damage" is categorized as unintentional, there must be a strong commitment to eliminating such occurrences and averting the irreversible consequences.

Sanctions regimes that relate to terrorism must be implemented in strict observance of human rights and the dignity of individuals. Due process and Rule of Law must be scrupulously followed by all UN bodies that include counter-terrorism in their mandates, in particular the Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1267 (1999) of sanctions against Al-Qaeda, the Taliban and associated organizations. The Rio Group recognizes the need for improving the procedures of this Committee in a reliable and uniform manner, so as to ensure respect for due process and the right of all parties to be heard. We encourage the Committee to proceed resolutely in its delicate and important tasks such as the revision of its procedures for listing and de-listing individuals and associations.

The Rio Group stresses the importance of the prompt conclusion of a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention. It would allow us to strengthen the existing corpus of international counter-terrorism instruments and provide the international community with an integral framework for further actions by Member States in the fight against terrorism. We trust that such a convention could be agreed during the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly and that a high-level conference on terrorism could be convened. To that end, we encourage a redoubling of the efforts of the Ad Hoc Group established under Resolution 51/210.

The Rio Group takes note of the recommendation presented by the Secretary General in his report on 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism'. Initiatives (A/61/210), regarding the streamlining of reporting procedures are relevant and a prerogative of Member States. We will therefore examine the proposal as well as the consequences this might have with regard to the availability of information to the members of the General Assembly. Dissemination of information is as important as its collection. We hope that there can be greater coordination and coherence between the Security Council and the General Assembly in order to receive the information that is currently available on this matter.

Finally, the Rio Group considers terrorism a threat that affects all Member States. It is through mobilization and cooperation at the regional and international level that our national concerns can bring us together as an international community in attaining common goals of preventing, combating and eliminating terrorist acts, their financing and planning, as well as ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.