

**PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT OF THE GROUP OF RIO¹
SANTIAGO DECLARATION, 17-18 AUGUST 2001**

Communication from Chile

The following communication, dated 24 September 2001, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Chile.

The Group of Rio held its 15th Presidential Summit in Santiago, Chile, on 17 and 18 August 2001, at which it adopted a Declaration that is available on the website www.minrel.cl in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Declaration set out the Rio Group's vision of trade, the WTO and the holding of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference in Doha.

In my capacity as Pro-Tempore Chairman of the Group of Rio, I have pleasure in transmitting these paragraphs for circulation to WTO Members.

Group of Rio
Santiago Declaration

19. Latin America, having chosen the path of open regionalism, must continue supporting an international trade system that is non-discriminatory, transparent, free of protectionism, where the opening of markets and the elimination of trade barriers may permit us all to benefit from the comparative advantages of our economies and promote our competitive incorporation into the global economy.

20. We reaffirm the need for a stronger multilateral trade system, especially at a time of world economy slowdown, where protectionist pressures strike more heavily. For this reason, we renew our commitment to continue working towards reaching the necessary consensus that will ensure the success of the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar, next November. In particular, we, the member countries of the Rio Group, express our support for a new Round with a balanced, well-defined agenda, that takes into account the interests of all participants and whose

¹ The Group of Rio is composed of: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

results benefit all members, particularly the developing and less advanced countries. A new round agenda will have to tackle properly the developing countries' concerns regarding the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, and include an ambitious mandate oriented at the agricultural trade liberalization process that began during the said Round.
