

**STATEMENT BY**

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**On  
behalf of the Group of 77 and China**

**In**

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On Sanitation**

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Mr. Chairman,

The issues of access to basic sanitation and hygiene and of waste water treatment, recycling and re-use are extremely critical to sustainable development. The effect of lack of sanitation and sanitation services go well beyond particular individuals or even states. Good sanitation and public hygiene is a public good.

Provision of these services at the level required and in particular to meet the Millennium Development Goal target by Developing Countries face a number of challenges. A number of Policy Actions and Measures have been identified in the report from the Inter-governmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) and also in the presentation of the Panellists. We thank the panellists. One limitation, one concern about these proposals is the extent to which they address the practical constraints to implementation in developing countries identified in the review process.

The G-77 and China has submitted the proposed policies and measures to the constraints.

In the area of sanitation there are some key constraints. These include:

- Lack of financial capacity of governments, municipalities and individuals, in particular poor individuals and households. The provision of capital and subsidies to the individuals is critical. This capital however does not have a direct financial return to repay the investment. It can hardly be obtained from commercial sources as loans. This means that ODA has to be a major source.
- Lack of access to technology and effective technical solutions including proven local solutions. How do we make these broadly accessible on professional terms.
- Need for long-term planning. Given the sanitation deficits, particularly in the poorest countries and among the poorest sections of the population, there is need for long term planning and long-term programmes.
- The G-77 and China has specifically proposed a ten year program on waste-water management. This program will

need to be expeditiously funded at an appropriate level if many countries are not to slip even further behind on the sanitation target.

- Waste-water treatment and re-use has the potential to convert the waste water into a resource. The technology for conversion, the technology for testing to ensure the quality and safety of the treated waste water is known but often expensive. Jamie Bartrary referred to the technology gap and the potential external or down stream adverse impacts. The G-77 and China proposes that access be provided to such technologies on preferential terms.
- Need for behavioural change. Improved sanitation relies heavily on behavioural change. This require capacity, education and training in particular communication capacity. The G-77 and China recommends support for capacity building, education and training at professional and other levels in developing countries.
- High level of poverty. Achieving sanitation targets, like water settlement, depend fundamentally on the reduction of poverty. Poverty reduction must be linked to employment creation. Waste water management can be a major source of employment, if labour is linked to appropriate technology. Partnerships, appropriately structured can play an important role and should be encouraged.

Mr. Chairman,

These are some of the practical measures which are required to assist developing countries meet the sanitation target.