

GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
19 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y 10017
TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743



Please check against delivery

STATEMENT
BY
HON. CHRISTINE CHURCHER
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE
OF GHANA
TO THE
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF CSD-13

New York, April 20, 2005

The Chairman,

The delegation of Ghana commends Chairman John Ashe, the CSD Bureau and Secretariat, for an excellent and balanced draft text which has been the subject of negotiations by delegations over the past few days. My delegation- associates itself fully with the viewpoints and position taken by the Group of 77 and China.

The accelerated realization of the global target on water, sanitation and human settlements becomes more visible with an opening of windows of international cooperation, including increased ODA to developing countries, technology transfer and capacity building, inter alia, implementing the decisions of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey consensus and other decisions of major conferences held since the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, in Ghana, in spite of our strenuous efforts to implement these decisions,, the required ODA has fallen far too short of our expectations and constrained our progress towards the achievement of set targets. We therefore strongly recommend the full implementation of the commitments made on the provision of financial resources for sustainable development.

The implementation of the target on water, sanitation and human settlements should be given clear, precise and unambiguous terms of support and time-frames for each stage of their attainment.

The regional and sub-regional institutions and bodies, in accordance with paragraph 158 of JPOI, should further be supported in the coordination of regional plans through regional priority setting, tracking indicator sets on water, sanitation and human settlements for effective monitoring and evaluation.

The integration of water, sanitation and human settlements plans into the National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) or Poverty Reduction Strategies of countries, as the case may be, is imperative. In that regard, we urge countries to adopt shared experience learning. The Government of France in collaboration with those of Belgium, Ghana, Mauritius and the UK, the EU and with UNDESA has evolved an excellent methodology for this shared learning or peer review of NSDS which other countries may wish to

adopt with relevant modifications. Ghana would subject its own NSDS to a similar experience, resources permitting, and we invite other countries from both the North and South to collaborate in this endeavour.

The full integration of water, sanitation and human settlement plans into the NSDSs or PRs is one sure way of ensuring national commitment and ownership, political leadership and the harnessing of available resources for their implementation.

The strengthening of public-private, public-public and non-governmental organizations in the delivery of water, sanitation and human settlements is essential and the key stakeholders in all these are the local authorities.

Infrastructure facilities in slum areas have to be improved and the formation of new slums which pose a constant threat also prevented through the enforcement of rules and regulations on land use plans. In that regard, there is the need to introduce innovative systems and arrangements in the development and partnerships in the built up areas.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, training and capacity building especially for the private sector and at the micro level must be continuous and relevant.

Mainstreaming gender, cultural and religious dimensions into water, sanitation and human settlements planning and management, is essential.

The inter linkages and cross cutting nature of the three themes emphasize the need for the integration of plans relating to the management of water, sanitation and human settlements into National Sustainable Development Strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

Thank you.