

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

CSD15 THEME: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

New York 30 April to 5 May 2007

INTRODUCTION

South Africa fully supports and aligns with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of G77 and China. Sustainable economic growth is the developing world's gateway to significantly increasing business and employment opportunities, eradicating extreme poverty and improving quality of life. Although the developing world have over the past decades implemented robust industrial development policies as a key element of our national Sustainable Development strategies, our endeavours face increasing trade constraints such as tariff and technical barriers and intellectual property rights.

POLICY OPTIONS

Our focus at CSD 15 is to seek policy options that facilitate increased industrial and services capacity, which requires investment in infrastructure, technological innovation and education to enhance skills and knowledge to facilitate diversification and international market access.

High-impact and clean industrial development is required to meet our poverty challenges in a sustainable way. Small and medium enterprises, in particular enterprises facilitating economic participation of women and youth, need major resource injections to accelerate solutions for more sustainable beneficiation. Improved access to solutions for resource and energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy would support sustainable industrial development and open up opportunities for the further development of small and medium enterprises to eradicate poverty.

Other policy options include the need for support for:

- Programmes to improve and strengthen supporting transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure, systems and services
- Efforts towards regional industrial integration, particularly on the African continent within the NEPAD framework, and
- Building capacity to grow South-South trade.

CONCLUSION

At the domestic level, developing countries strive to turn around skills shortages, weak transport, telecommunications, energy and services systems that protract the unsustainable spiral of high input costs and limited access to advanced solutions.

In particular, policy options need to overcome factors that impede the adoption of cleaner production and consumption patterns, which are central to achieving the sustainable development goals outlined in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.