



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

***STATEMENT ON THE OVERALL REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21,
THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND
THE JOHANNESBURG PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION BY THE LEADER OF THE
KENYAN DELEGATION TO CSD 12, 21st APRIL, 2004, NEW YORK***

Mr. Chairman,

1. We are convinced that this Review Session will bring about an improved understanding of priority concerns towards the achievement of sustainable development, and in particular those related to water, sanitation and human settlements.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Despite domestic and international actions, implementation continues to be constrained by several old and emerging challenges. Inadequate global and domestic resources to fund sustainable development initiatives, fragmentation in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the apparent lack of political commitment to the goals of sustainable development continue to limit our achievements.
3. The Secretary General's report before this Session reveals a grim picture on Africa. The poverty rate has increased, the hunger situation has deteriorated and the malnourished proportion of the population has increased to be the highest in the world. The impact of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases loom much larger. Many countries in the region are likely to miss at least one of the three goals of education-universal primary net enrolment, improvement in adult literacy and gender parity in education.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We strongly believe that unless we take deliberate corrective and positive actions now, the goals of halving by 2015, the proportion of our people whose income is less than 1 US dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, as called for in the Millennium Declaration and reaffirmed by the JPOI, will remain but a mirage. These challenges can be addressed through renewed political will, practical steps and genuine partnerships to promote sustainable development in Africa.
5. Kenya, like most other countries, has in the recent past, embraced appropriate social and economic reforms in line with her commitments to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. My country has undertaken policy, legal, and institutional reforms in various development and environmental sectors. We have identified poverty and unemployment as the biggest challenges facing us, and have developed a national Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation. The strategy translates both the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan and the agreed poverty related commitments contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation into a concrete programme of action. Among the key priority actions that the strategy addresses include:

- i) Improving poor peoples access to productive resources;
- ii) ~~ii)~~ Expanding accessibility to primary health care to all irrespective of their income, age, sex and social status; and
- iii) ~~iii)~~ Maintaining an enabling environment for investment and socio-economic development through enhanced security, law and order.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Successful implementation of activities aimed at protecting the natural resource base for economic and social development still remain a challenge to many of us. Land degradation deforestation, drought, and desertification continue to impact negatively on biodiversity, in the process accelerating poverty. A lot remains to be done to achieve the goals and targets set by the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). Sustained efforts should be made to assist developing countries in particular Africa to create the necessary enabling environment for foreign direct investment in the area of infrastructure development and capacity building. Additional resources, credible partnership arrangements that encourage technology transfer need to be enhanced.

Thank you.