



**STATEMENT BY
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**15TH SESSION ON THE COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
9 – 11 MAY 2007**

**THURSDAY, 10 MAY 2007
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

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**SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT AT THE CSD 15 HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
9 MAY 2007**

Chairperson

We associate ourselves with the statement by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Energy, industrial development, air pollution, and climate change are closely related, and should be considered in the context of the overriding priorities of developing countries, namely poverty eradication, social and economic development, and environmental protection.

As our legacy to future generations, South Africa is committed to working together with our partners during CSD15 to ensure an action oriented outcome. This is critical for turning targets and commitments under the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Declaration into actions. In particular, the outcome should be supportive of, and complement the efforts by African countries to promote sustainable development.

Chairperson

To lay a solid foundation for the long term, we must strengthen the global institutional arrangements for sustainable development and signal our resolve to ensure that the relevance of CSD is enhanced through the United Nations reform process.

In our deliberations here and in other global forums, we must continuously guard against political and institutional stagnation. In the context of CSD, we must avoid mandate drift, and ensure that there is not a “disconnect” between the “review” and “policy” years of the two year cycle.

What is required is not a new mandate. The mandate is already there. But we must overcome the political and institutional stagnation; and the lack of trust between North and South that often characterizes our interactions in these chambers.

To build greater trust as a basis for our common efforts, it is urgent to address one of the key constraints in turning targets into actions, namely the resource gap. Without a real commitment to up-scaling the means of implementation, our policy decisions on the four thematic areas will remain words on paper.

We must also have a frank and honest engagement on the persistent question of how we could strengthen the global institutional arrangements for sustainable

development. In the context of UN reform, this is central to enhancing the CSD's political authority

Chairperson

We believe that the following 4 elements are essential to the final CSD 15 outcome:

- **Energy:** Financial and technical support to enhance access to energy for social and economic development, to diversify energy sources, including through advanced energy technologies, and to enhance energy efficiency in all sectors in developing countries.
- **Industrial development:** Financial and technical support to accelerate basic infrastructure project investment in developing countries, in a way that promotes sustainable industrial development. In addition, the successful completion of the Doha development round is crucial for sustained economic growth in developing countries.
- **Air pollution:** Support for an integrated approach to addressing air pollution at national sub-regional, regional and international levels.
- **Climate change:** Sustainable development policies, plans and programmes must specifically address climate change, and must produce climate change co-benefits.

Finally Chair, on the means of implementation and cross-cutting issues, CSD 15 must conclude with commitments on:

- **Realization of the Monterrey Consensus** through an accelerated and integrated global effort on Overseas Development Assistance, and reform of international finance institutions, including the Global Environment facility and the reform of its Resource Allocation Framework
- An early **conclusion of the Doha round**, with development as the measure of success,
- Action to remove the barriers **to the adoption of sustainable development technologies**, including costly and restrictive intellectual property rights, through the establishment of a Multilateral Technology Acquisition Fund. In addition, there should be action to **promote cooperation** on technology transfer through, amongst others, funding the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan,
- Support that is specifically aimed at addressing **Africa's sustainable development** programmes under the African Union , such as NEPAD
- Mainstreaming of **gender and youth** considerations in sustainable development policy, planning and decision-making processes, as well as implementation.