STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA AT THE INTERACTIVE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

New York, 02 March 2011

Thank You Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the panelists for their interesting and informative presentations.

South Africa associate itself with the views of G77 & China.

In view of the waste management challenges and barriers highlighted in the Secretary General's report, South Africa proposes the following:

First, the implementation of the 3Rs should be supported because waste is a valuable resource more than just an environmental challenge. Many poor people in developing countries depend on waste for their livelihoods. It has become important to understand the economic opportunities that are presented by the implementation of the 3R's. This will require the identification and optimisation of the economic benefits of environmentally sound management of waste at local, regional and international level.

Secondly, Public Private Partnerships for financing waste management infrastructure and technology should be encouraged. This, however, should not be seen as a replacement for the need for the transfer of sustained and predictable financing for waste management.

Thirdly, to curb the illegal trafficking of waste, exporters should comply with the legislative framework preventing illegal trafficking of hazardous and electronic

wastes. Support for countries to adopt and implement extended producer responsibility and develop regulatory measures to ensure take back options of certain products that result in electronic waste is needed. This should include strengthening of governance systems and compliance mechanisms in both exporting and importing countries.

Finally, to address the shortage of expertise, technology and associated costs to deal manage complex waste types; appropriate technology transfer, capacity building and adequate funding are needed in developing countries.

I thank you