

New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations



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Economic and Social Council

UN Commission on Sustainable Development Sixteenth Session (CSD-16) Opening Session

**Statement by
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Mr Chair

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to address the Commission on Sustainable Development, which we recognise as the primary forum to coordinate international discussions on sustainable development.

We all face the challenge of implementing sustainable policies, not only for our environment, but for our economies and social development. We need to accelerate our progress towards meeting the objectives and principles we agreed at the Earth Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. We also need to pick up our pace on progressing key global plans of actions, which recognise the specific needs and challenges for small island developing states (SIDS) – i.e. the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

This review session - focussing on agriculture, rural development and land use, drought, desertification and Africa, on implementing the Mauritius Strategy, as well as reviewing our progress on water and sanitation - provides a valuable opportunity to examine the connections and links between these issues. It is important we make the links between these topics, and identify opportunities to address them in a holistic way to ensure effective, efficient and long lasting solutions.

Mr Chair

New Zealand also welcomes the opportunity for stakeholders to join and share our collective experiences, those which have been successful, as well as those that have been more challenging. During this session, we will share New Zealand's experiences around sustainable land management initiatives, including the Livestock Emissions and Abatement Research Network (LEARN), an international research network effort related to greenhouse gases and animal agriculture. We will provide more detailed information later this session.

In closing, Mr Chair, New Zealand looks forward to working together with other delegations during this session to translate our collective global commitments into concrete plans of action for sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels.

Thank you