

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Statement by

**His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim M Sesay
Deputy Minister of Development and Economic Planning
At the Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

Mr. Chairman, your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, the Delegation of Sierra Leone would like to align itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and also the statement by the African Group. We thank you and the entire CSD-14 Bureau, for the efficient manner in which you are conducting the affairs of this session.

Mr. Chairman, the themes for CSD-14 are apt especially for least developed countries like Sierra Leone. There is need to enhance energy efficiency to address pollution, climate change, industrial development for poverty reduction and the timely achievement of the MGDs.

In many least developed countries (LDCs), the road networks are poor; there are water shortages and inadequate electricity supplies. Small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), which are a key to the development of the industrial sector, are mostly resource-starved and under financed. SMEs, with little capital investment, find themselves increasingly relying on generating their own electricity from Petro-generators. The increase in energy consumption coupled with rising energy prices has not only increased the production cost of SMEs in these countries, but also the rate of atmospheric pollution with its attendant consequences on human health. There is therefore a need to embark on energy efficient projects that will enhance industrial development, decrease air pollution and improve human well-being.

The heavy dependence on fossil fuel and centralized infrastructure for energy services exclude the vast majority of people in rural areas from the socio-economic benefits of a modern system. Their only available options for energy supply therefore are paraffin, candles and/or charcoal as fuel wood for cooking and heating. It is, indeed, in these rural areas around the world that renewable energy can make the biggest difference and help to meet the MGD targets in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairman, transportation is a major source of pollution in many of our countries. As Sierra Leone slowly recovers from the devastation of conflict, vehicle ownership has increased. The problem however is that most of these are

old, used cars from the north with very high emission rates. In tackling the twin problems of global pollution and climate change, it will be necessary to forge partnerships between private and public sector institutions. Car manufacturers may need to produce more energy efficient vehicles with lower carbon dioxide and sulphur emissions as well as higher fuel efficiencies; say in excess of 60 miles per gallon. Clean renewable energy sources and cleaner fossils fuel technologies need to be vigorously pursued to increase fuel energy security and create a greener world environment.

I would like to conclude Mr. Chairman, by reiterating that energy for sustainable development remains a major challenge for the developing world. Energy is central to achieving the MDGs and sustainable development goals. Noting, that some two billion people have no access to modern energy services, the challenge lies in finding ways to reconcile the necessity for energy demand with its impact on the natural resource base in order to ensure that sustainable development goals are realized. Innovative financing for renewable energy research and technologies is therefore urgently required especially in the developing world as renewable energy creates win-win solutions for environmentally friendly development.

I thank you all.