

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

**NEW YORK, 1 MARCH 2011**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the South African delegation, I would like to thank the distinguished panelists for their enlightening presentations. South Africa aligns itself with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

For South Africa, which lies at the southern tip of the African continent, transport is a central component of sustainable development and key to promoting economic growth, connectivity, as well as access to trade for the country and the region. This is also true for the significant industrial and tourism shipping traffic that passes our coasts and Marine Exclusive Economic Zone in both directions. Transport systems form the backbone of developing countries' socio-economic activities by enabling the movement of people, products and services. However, basic transport infrastructure and services are still inadequate or lacking in many rural areas of developing countries, making it difficult for the rural poor, including women, youth and children, to receive basic social services such as health and education, and for workers to access jobs.

Mr Chairman,

In order for us to address these challenges, CSD 19 needs to adopt a concrete, coherent and comprehensive suite of policies and measures to promote improvement and expansion of public transport systems which is more-reliable, safe, clean, affordable, time saving and environmentally sound. Furthermore, the integration of transport considerations in development planning in order to ensure more sustainable transport systems in the future by reducing the need for travel and minimizing travel distances is urgently needed.

We need to accelerate modal shifts towards more economical, affordable and energy efficient modes of transport such as electric and hybrid vehicles, including greater use of railways, pipelines and inland waterways which offer low carbon options for passenger and freight transport. Multi-modal systems can provide an array of options for passenger and freight transport and can enable developing countries to participate more fully in international trade as well as foster national and regional commerce. This can be achieved through appropriate land-use policies, mixed-use development and medium-to-high population densities along key corridors.

Greater support is needed in the area of research, innovation and deployment of advanced technologies in a move towards a sustainable resource efficient and low-carbon transportation systems. This will include the need to curb the dumping in developing countries

of old vehicles, aircraft, and ships, and/or those nearing their end of life.

Finally, Chairman, international financial institutions could play a greater role in accelerating investment to expand transport infrastructure and transport services in developing countries. Innovative financial solutions, private sector and public-private partnerships are also crucial in financing and managing public transport systems. A shift is needed in investment in roads that also provides for infrastructure for non-motorised transport.

I thank you,

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