



**STATEMENT BY  
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OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
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Chair, South Africa associates itself with the statements made by the Group of 77 and China, and the statement made by the Africa Group.

We meet timeously to reflect on progress made in the important thematic areas under discussion. As the world experiences the energy, financial and food crises, combined with the impacts of climate change and escalating levels of poverty, it is our responsibility here at CSD 18, to reflect on what needs to be done to expedite implementation.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized that eradicating poverty and addressing global inequality were the greatest challenges facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

There are indications that whilst many countries have undertaken various concrete actions and that progress has been made in certain areas, much remains to be done to enhance poverty reduction, improve livelihoods and to enhance economic growth.

Chair, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals remains critical for developing countries, particularly Africa in achieving sustainable development. Emphasis should be on

the policies and actions that promote and support economic growth that can enhance poverty reduction efforts and help to meet the MDG goals.

Promoting women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making is crucial. Building partnerships and strengthening cooperation, including South-South Cooperation is critical.

The themes under discussion present us with opportunities for making a visible impact on the lives of the poor. Sustainable consumption and production offers an opportunity for us to reflect on resource efficiency. Food security is closely tied to resource availability and costs, such as volatile energy costs and water scarcity. We live in a world where nearly 1 billion people suffer from chronic food insecurity and an estimated 25 000 people die each day from malnutrition-related causes. The challenge of the food crisis that we face globally, implies that we need to manage our natural resource base closely.

The increased use of chemicals will raise management challenges specifically for developing countries, including lack of information on chemicals; Global Harmonised System implementation; comprehensive risk assessments; technology; technical and financial support; education and awareness, and finally illegal trafficking which is caused by ineffective implementation of conventions.

To address challenges associated with waste management, there must be a shift in policy that promotes waste as a resource and reduce, reuse and recycling. The growing challenge of the transboundary shipment of hazardous waste; specifically e-waste is of concern. Extended producer responsibility must be adopted in dealing with waste, including e-waste.

At the heart of the sustainable development debate is the balance between the triple bottom line and development, particularly for the mining sector. Whilst, the mining sector offers tremendous opportunities for economic growth, it is critical that we promote the necessary social and environmental measures required.

Transport is key in promoting economic growth, connectivity, and trade in the region. It is the backbone of socio-economic activities by enabling the movement of people, products and services. NEPAD remains the key vehicle for engagement with the African Continent by development partners.

Enhanced co-ordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant international organizations is critical in accelerating the achievement of the goals and targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Without this co-ordination, efforts by governments and civil society to meet the targets can be seriously jeopardized.

Finance, technology and capacity building continue to be fundamental. Whilst multilateral financial mechanisms have played a key role in supporting countries in achieving sustainable development, it should be noted that resources made available thus far through these mechanisms have been woefully inadequate and unpredictable and that developing countries continue to experience challenges in accessing these funds.

Infrastructure development, information and communication technologies must be promoted. Global science and technology remains key for a development agenda that promotes technology development, transfer and capacity building, which are underpinned by viable financing mechanisms.

Chair, Rio +20 is key in moving forward our discussions on sustainable development and must be responsive to the challenges we face. Rio +20 must be a constructive session that lays a firm foundation for an action-oriented programme for sustainable development.

We look forward to a meaningful and constructive discussion that will form a basis and stimulate a fruitful policy session in 2011. I thank you.