

**Statement by
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**on
"Review of the Decisions of CSD-13 on Water and Sanitation"**

**before
The 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

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In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chairman;

At the outset, I would like to thank the panelists for their insightful presentations. I associate myself with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of G-77 and China on the issue under consideration.

Mr. Chairman;

This is the first meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to review the implementation of the outcomes of a CSD session in the framework of MYPOW. I hope the outcomes of our exchange of views will lead to the expedition of our collective efforts to implement the decisions of CSD-13 on water and sanitation.

Here, I would like to reiterate the relevance of 4 areas of access to water and sanitation services, integrated water resources management, monitoring and financing, which were referred to in CSD-13 decision.

We are facing many challenges with regard to water and sanitation and now I would like to take the opportunity and highlight several factors which highly affect the implementation of the policies set on water and sanitation.

1. More frequency and prolongation of drought cycles is increasing water scarcity and thus decreasing the availability of water to people, wildlife, as well as agricultural sector. Such circumstances which prevail, for example in many parts of my country, reduces the agricultural products and give rise to current food crisis and hunger. It is worth noting that the new conditions is beyond the control of local people who used to manage sustainably drought cycles in hundreds of years, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. In addition, drought intensifies land degradation and desertification which continue to devastate soil fertility and agricultural lands. Drought hinders the efforts of the governments to escalate access to water and sanitation services at national levels.

2. In order to increase access to sanitation services, further attention should be paid to establishment and extension of sewerage networks and waste management including recycling and dumping of wastes in an environmentally-sound manner in urban and rural areas.

3. Last but not least, international cooperation including north-south and south-south cooperation are required to make further progress in the implementation of CSD-13 outcomes. Likewise, it is important to increase coordination, cooperation and active participation of grass-root organizations, civil societies, and academia at national levels in the process of decision-making and implementation.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.