

*Opening Statement of the United States  
13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development  
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Mr. Chairman, the Policy Session we begin here today will cap the CSD's first-ever two-year "implementation cycle." The United States is encouraged by what this cycle has already accomplished. Through the new two-year format, we have built political momentum for addressing our water and sanitation goals. We have integrated partnerships into the conduct of our work. Thanks to the leadership of Italy and Morocco, we have expanded our reach from the basements of the UN to Partnerships Fora in Rome and Marrakech. Hundreds of people have received training and capacity building through Learning Centres at CSD and at other UN events. Thanks to the innovative matrix you produced as an outcome of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM), we now have a user-friendly set of policy options and practical steps to guide implementation.

Clearly, we still have a long way to go toward achieving the international development goals of the Millennium Declaration. We face complex challenges. As Minister Borge Brende identified, we must address financing; we must increase capacity, especially in the developing world; we must integrate action on water into broader development efforts. The future of our work will become even more complex, as actors, institutions, and programs multiply. Some may find it tempting to seek centralized control over this diffuse and complex system. However, future efforts are likely to be increasingly spread out, increasingly specialized, and increasingly local. Our challenge here is to try to find a way to help all those efforts, all those projects, work towards the same goals.

Rapid technological changes are enabling the interconnection of all the knowledge pools in the world. This opens up great possibilities for international organizations, governments, civil society, and the private sector to collaborate on sustainable development. The CSD Secretariat can play a critical role in this emerging implementation network by disseminating knowledge and information, and making greater use of web-based technologies.

This network will necessarily contain a range of governments, international organizations and non-governmental actors. Sometimes a government may take the lead, and other times international organizations and non-governmental actors might step forward. In each case, groups of likeminded actors will join together to implement their common priorities. Some may come together to work on water and health. Some may focus on integrated water resources management. Some may address transboundary water issues. And some might focus on financing.

Periodically, it may be useful to undertake a bit of stocktaking. We are gratified that the World Bank and regional development banks are developing mechanisms, such as World Bank Water Week, where experts and practitioners can come together to examine

successes and chart progress. Other events, such as the World Water Forum and Stockholm Water Week, can enrich this process and we look forward to a vibrant UN-Water playing a role.

Mr. Chairman, the CSD is charting a new course as the UN turns towards implementation. The best message that this CSD can deliver is to show how a reformed UN process that integrates the actions of governments, international organizations, and a range of non-governmental players can deliver concrete results. I am hopeful that this session and future CSD cycles will inspire actors across the board – whether here, in other UN fora, or in local communities far flung around the world – to take part in this implementation era.