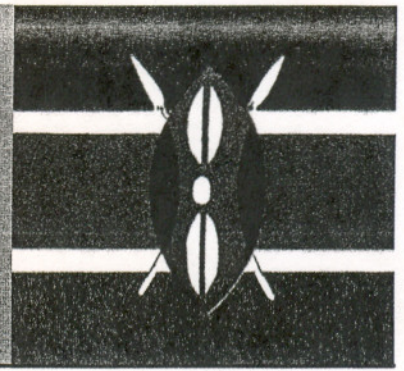




# REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Information Section, Kenya Mission to the United Nations, 866 U.N. Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017—Tel. 421-4740, Fax (212) 486-1985

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**STATEMENT BY DR. TIMOTHY U. K. M'MELLA  
LEADER OF THE KENYA DELEGATION DURING THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE FIFTEENTH  
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(CSD-15) ON THE THEME  
“AIR POLLUTION/ATMOSPHERE”  
ON  
WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK.**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

From the outset, allow me on behalf of my delegation to thank you for the able manner in which you are transacting the business of the day. I also thank the panelists for their most candid presentations.

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of G77 and China.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Clean air is a public good and indeed no other resource exhibits the same degree of “publicness”. Managing air/atmospheric pollution to protect human health and the environment is therefore one of the major challenges faced by the world today. This is premised on the realization that a continued pursuit by the developing world to foster sustained socio-economic growth and development will change extensively depending on how we effectively manage our air/atmospheric pollution.

Kenya does not have air quality monitoring stations due to technical and financial resource constraints, and yet ideally, every major habitat should have air quality management capability to address sources of air/atmospheric pollution. Kenya still recognizes the importance and relevance of all the Rio principles, especially Principle 7 on “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.” We also support Chapter 9 of Agenda 21, the JPOI, and the Decisions 9/2 adopted by CSD 9 on the Protection of the

Atmosphere. All the above references outline a clear roadmap of actions necessary to effectively combat air/atmosphere pollution at all levels.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Factors such as land degradation and desertification, natural disasters such as floods, volcanic eruptions, and sand storms have been found to increase air/atmosphere pollution with adverse socio-economic and health effects to populations.

In Kenya for example, the biggest intervention is at the individual level. Typical smoke levels of more than 5,000 kg/m<sup>3</sup> which is as bad as the worst London smog of 1950 and 100 times current limits of outdoor pollution in the developed world has been recorded. It can therefore, be summarized that suspended particulates matter, carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of biomass in addition to their environmental consequences have been casually associated with high incidences of respiratory and eye infections.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The most formidable task before us is to find a lasting formula on how to reduce and or eradicate air/atmosphere pollution which if left unchecked is likely to slow down socio-economic gains already made, exacerbate environmental degradation and lead to a myriad of health problems particularly in developing countries.

To achieve the above, there will be need to overcome the inadequate financial resources, secure access to and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies and appropriate capacity building.

Kenya is fully committed to ensuring clean air for a healthy population and sustainable environment. Already, there is a legislation on the control of air pollution from the combustions of fossil fuels by motor vehicles which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. It is hoped that this landmark legislation will to a large extent, control air pollution from fossil fuels arising from motor vehicle emissions. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is currently working on a comprehensive Clean Air Bill that is likely to substantially reduce air pollution from many sources countrywide.

Finally, for Kenya to make an impact in this area there is need to initiate air quality monitoring programme in every city/town. Such programs should amongst others address the following: -

- Data on upper respiratory tract infections, cancers,
- Uncontrolled open burning of waste should be prohibited,
- The capacity to sample and analyze sources of pollution should be enhanced,
- Accidental fires mainly from informal human settlements should be addressed,

- The use of low quality sometimes adulterated fuels leading to massive motor vehicle air pollution from fossil fuels motor emissions should be checked.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, it is our cherished hope that the outcome of the preparatory meeting (IPM) and subsequently that of the forthcoming CSD 15 will lay a firm foundation for the implementation of policy options to reduce air/atmosphere pollution.

**I Thank you.**