

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Statement by

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United Nations

Before

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING
CSD15

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**Excellency, Secretary General of the United Nations
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I want to thank you all for your participation in this preparatory meeting of the CSD 15. I also want to express my sincere thanks to the UNDESA Secretariat for the assistance provided since May 2006 and for the organization of this very important meeting.

The responsibility of the CSD is to review the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and to provide policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the local, national, regional and international levels.

This process has resulted on a global commitment to undertake concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhance international co-operation in the areas of poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development.

The CSD14 reviewed the progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals. The review focused on constraints and obstacles for implementing measures in the four themes of the current work cycle, namely Energy for Sustainable Development, Industrial Development, Air pollution/Atmosphere and Climate Change. Our role now is to come up with policy recommendations on all four themes.

Given today's global challenges, few are as urgent, complex, and inter-linked as those stemming from energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. These issues affect every part of our economies and every segment of our societies and impact on the health of our planet at local, regional and global levels.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

A world in which one-third of its population lacks access to modern energy services will not be sustainable. When they have to trek miles to gather biomass fuels, only to suffer from health damaging pollutants, girls and women will never be truly empowered to pursue sustainable livelihoods.

When their reading time is cut short at dusk because of a lack of electricity, children will never be able to fully reap the benefits of schooling. When they have only intermittent power supply, hospitals and clinics cannot provide basic range of medical services, not to mention maintaining refrigeration as part of the "cold chain" for storing vaccines.

Industrial development will never take off without an efficient and reliable modern energy infrastructure. Lack of access to modern energy services, weak infrastructure and lack of institutional and human capacities, as well as limited availability of modern technologies and financial resources, are further inhibiting progress in industrial development in many developing countries. These are key barriers to achieving Millennium Development Goals and Johannesburg targets and commitments.

Increasing transparency and stability of the global energy markets, improving the investment climate in the energy sector including energy infrastructure development, promoting energy efficiency and energy saving, diversifying energy mix will contribute in the construction of the pathway for sustainable development.

In addition to their social and economic dimensions, the issues in the CSD-14 and CSD-15 cluster pose daunting environmental challenges at global scale. Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States bear the brunt of rural and urban air pollution, as well as indoor air pollution, and face the greatest risks from climate change.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

CSD-14 succeeded in highlighting inter-related challenges, specific barriers and constraints to solutions in relation to the four issues of the cluster. It has demonstrated that there are tremendous potentials for progress in energy efficiency, energy diversification, advanced and cleaner energy technologies, as well as renewable energy. Small- and medium-sized enterprises can play a greater role as engines of growth in developing countries, given the right supporting framework.

The task ahead for CSD-15 is to take decisions of specific policy options and practical measures to overcome barriers and constraints and to expedite implementation, in partnership with UN agencies and other international and regional organization, as well as major groups. CSD-15 should therefore be a forward-looking and policy-oriented session.

To this end, I invite you to take part to this process and to contribute and provide concrete policy options and practical measures that will help define and guide our collaborative efforts in the coming years to meet the Millennium

Development Goals and the Johannesburg targets and commitments in energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

I encourage you to use CSD-15 as a platform for launching specific initiatives, activities, and projects. These actions, when combined, will have a real impact.

As Chairman of CSD-15, I will do my utmost, in close cooperation with my colleagues on the Bureau and with assistance from the Secretariat, to guide CSD-15 to a successful conclusion. We already had three meetings and have agreed on the program that is before you today as well as the organization of work for the CSD15. We also need to keep a balance between all four issues.

While keeping in mind the dimension of the challenges facing us, I am optimistic about the future. The coming decades will witness significant investments in energy infrastructure, as well as in industrial development. We must seize the opportunity to make a difference by making the right policy decisions and choices.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the last eight months I met with a number of parties and major groups to understand their views and concerns in relation to the four themes and to their inter-linkages and to the best ways to have a successful CSD session in the sense that practical and effective policy actions and measures are proposed and agreed upon.

I realized that a wide range of policy options are available and can be considered in our deliberations. You have also a number of reports or position papers available from the various parties and participants that can be referred to in order to have fruitful and smooth discussion.

But now again I wish all success to our work and thank you for your kind attention.