

OFFICIAL STATEMENT AT CSD 13
BY
SOUTH AFRICA
ON
IWRM AND ACCESS TO WATER
ON 12 APRIL 2005

South Africa associates itself with the remarks of the representative of the Group of 77 and China.

We welcome the reflection in the Chair's Summary for IWRM plan to be tailored to the particular needs of individual countries. This highlights the challenge of meeting the needs of poorer developing countries for which continued and increased technical assistance and financial support will be needed.

We are however concerned that there is not adequate reflection in the Chair's Summary of the JPOI targets in relation to IWRM and of the specific support that is required to achieve them. We also believe that CSD should indicate by which mechanism this target is being monitored.

In relation to the achievement of water use efficiency, we must emphasize that access to market and trade reform is of vital and direct importance since the agricultural sector in developing countries, particularly in Africa, which should benefit most from such reform can only afford to invest in more efficient water use if they receive fair returns for their production, which is not currently the case.

The achievement of both the IWRM, and the water supply and sanitation targets will depend on the mobilization of additional financial resources and we welcome the confirmation of this in the Chair's Summary and the progress made, which have already been reported.

In this context it is important that ODA support should be provided in a more streamlined and efficient manner and emphasize the importance of better coordination and harmonization of donor efforts.

Finally, we believe that the implementation of water supply and sanitation programs should not have to await the completion of endless cycles of capacity building and institutional development programs but should be implemented in parallel with them, an approach that we refer to as "learning by doing".