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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. KWAK Kyul-ho**  
**Minister of Environment and**  
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**Of the Republic of Korea**

**at**

**the 13<sup>th</sup> session of**  
**the Commission on Sustainable Development**

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**New York**

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Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to present to you the Republic of Korea's views on the theme of "Turning Political Commitments into Action" here at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the CSD.

Korea welcomes in principle Chair's Draft Elements for Decision being discussed by the distinguished delegates to the CSD. We believe the outcomes of the negotiated represent a balanced and holistic approach that will enable us to expedite implementation of the environmental targets and goals of the JPOI and Agenda 21.

In particular, we are pleased to note that many of the essential principles embodied in the 2004 Jeju Initiative have been incorporated into the current draft policy decisions. These include IWRM as the principle water resource management policy, significant emphasis on ecosystems, and we welcome the inclusion of pro-poor policy initiatives to the provision of water, sanitation and human settlements.

The challenge we now face is to convert the draft policy decisions into concrete actions. In this regard, the Republic of Korea underscores the essential need for governments to take the lead in creating an enabling environment for implementation. We also highlight the importance of partnerships between the public and private sectors, and cooperation among the international communities.

Building a strong implementation mechanism requires creation of a sound legal and institutional foundation to facilitate private investment, as well as a concerted effort to mobilize new financial resources. These actions will help national and local governments to carry out their obligation to provide water, sanitation and basic housing to all citizens.

In our own experience, strategies such as earmarking a fixed proportion of taxes on liquor for financial support to local governments have enabled us to ensure effective local provision of public goods to our citizens. In addition, we have successfully employed a build-transfer-lease (BTL) scheme to facilitate private investment in public goods.

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Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea would like to emphasize the importance of the building partnerships among the countries within the region to facilitate and carry out CSD policy decisions. The Seoul Initiative, adopted at the 2005 UN ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, is an excellent example of such partnerships.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the Republic of Korea to provide support and cooperation for all CSD activities, including the integration of the draft policy decisions into domestic policy and a broadening of the scope of cooperation among all stakeholders.

**Thank you.**

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