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STATEMENT

BY

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'MEETING THE MDGs RELATED TO WATER,
SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS TARGETS'

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

13TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, USA

20TH APRIL, 2005

Chairperson,

Zambia wishes to associate itself with the views presented by Ghana on behalf of the African Group and Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for the manner in which you are conducting the deliberations.

Chairperson,

Zambia is one of the most highly urbanized countries in Africa with more than 50% of the population living in urban areas. We are therefore already faced with the challenges of rapid urbanization. We however take solace from the fact that the challenges we face are recognized internationally, hence, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and fora such as this one which are aimed at meeting the challenges of rapid urbanization globally.

However, reports by experts indicate that most countries in the developing world, Zambia included, will not attain the Millennium Development Goals. The reason for the failure is not for lack of

trying or lack of political will but as a result of inadequate local financial resources and capacities.

Chairperson

On our own and relying heavily on domestic resources and prudent management, we have attained the HIPC completion point. Let me also take this opportunity to thank our cooperating partners who have since started canceling our debt. We have also created an enabling environment by formulating of policies for good governance and taken measures to facilitate sustainable delivery of services. For example, we already have in place policies on decentralization and housing, and a sanitation policy is in the offing.

Chairperson,

Much as we appreciate the MDGs and we are committed to attaining them, we do not fail to observe that whereas MDGS have goals and targets and a time-frame, there is no target and time-frame for availability of new and additional resources as agreed upon by the international community at the Habitat Summit in Istanbul in 1996. It is imperative that targets are set and a time-frame given for the availability of new and additional resources to correspond with the targets and timeframe for MDGs.

Chairperson,

We welcome the growing realization that MDGs cannot be attained without an enabling environment at the international and national levels. We support individuals and institutions that are sensitizing the international community on this matter. We also appreciate initiatives that are already in place which are a manifestation of the realization of the need to create an enabling environment. We therefore support initiatives such as: (i) the African Water Facility and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative under the African Development Bank, (ii) Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and Water for African Cities Programme under the UN-HABITAT, and (iii) Cities without Slums Programme and the Slum Upgrading Facility under UN-HABITAT.

It is our sincere hope, as Zambia, that this session will send a clear message to the Heads of States Summit in September 2005 that the attainment of MDGs is tied to an enabling environment at the international and national levels; that MDGs are tenable but for lack of financial resources; and that targets for the release of 0.7% of GDP for ODA be clearly defined and time-bound.

I Thank You Chairperson.