



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E Ambassador Teruneh Zenna
Acting Permanent Representative of the
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

At

**The 13th Ordinary Ministerial Conference on the
Commission of Sustainable Development**

**NEW YORK
21 April 2005**

*Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Allow me to congratulate you for the successful leadership you have been demonstrating since the beginning of your election.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by Jamaica on behalf of group 77 and China, and Madagascar on behalf of the African group.

Ethiopia is one of the least developed countries with huge population of 72 million out of which 85% are residing in rural settings.

Ethiopia is endowed with water resources potential of about 122 Bm³ of annual surface runoff, 3.7 million ha of irrigation and, 30,000 MW hydropower potential. The national water supply and sanitation coverage which stands at 39% and 11.5 respectively is the lowest both at global and sub regional standards. With regard to human settlement in urban, areas, more than 70 % live in slum condition.

Based on these features a national Sustainable Development Poverty Reduction Strategic Program was formulated. In this program Water Resource development is considered to be central to the overall socio-economic development of the country.

The outcomes of the various efforts particularly in developing our water resources are far below the nationally and internationally set goals and targets.

Various challenges have contributed to this low performance of the sector. The major ones being,

- ~ Absence of a well defined coherent policy, strategy and development program (till recently)

- The Government has formulated and put in place a comprehensive and integrated water resource management policy in 1999.
- Following the issuance of the policy the water sector strategy is formulated in 2001 with an aim of translating the policy into action
- Preparation of Integrated River Basin Development Master Plans in line with the decision reached in the Johannesburg summit in 2002 prior to Year 2005.
- National Water and Sanitation Master Plan Framework: aimed at an improvement of the national management and planning capacity of water and sanitation development-
- The Water Sector Development Program (WSDP) WSDP that defines concrete interventions in terms of projects and programs to achieve the water policy objectives has also been formulated.

WSDP is government's commitments and concrete action towards the achievement of the MDG's and the WSSD outcomes. It is also considered as the best tool for resource mobilization and will assist the development partners to target their assistance efficiently. The components of water sector development Program include:

- Water supply and Sanitation Development Program
- Irrigation Development Program
- Hydropower Development Program
- Water Resource Development Program
- Institutional Capacity building

In addition, Ethiopia is making unreserved efforts to enhance cooperation among riparian countries in order to promote the development of its trans boundary waters. In this regard, the Nile Basin Initiative Strategic Action Program is an exemplary framework for regional development of shared water resources. Furthermore, Ethiopia and the concerned riparian states have defined a vision of achieving economic growth and regional stability through cooperative investment and management of the Nile water resources.

Thus, Ethiopia believes that cooperative programs of. such nature could provide transformational socio-economic benefit and serve as a corner stone for regional integration.

Mr. Chairman,

Following the creation of the enabling environment, I have just mentioned, we are striving to cope up with capacity constraints through establishing a number of medium level and higher level training institutions simultaneously with the decentralization and the empowerment process being implemented nation wide. Various important dialogues for mobilizing resources are being carried out with local and international partners. An encouraging development to mention is the involvement and commitment of the people which is making a dramatic improvement in the provision and expansion of water supply & sanitation services and small scale irrigation.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly believe that the recently launched water supply and sanitation programme supported by the World Bank can definitely stimulate the efforts of our rural focused sustainable development programme through its demand responsive' , performance oriented three tier stepped approach. In line with the stepped approach, awareness creation with the help of the 28,000 health extension workers, sub district level support groups and community facilitator teams has started. This step would be followed by capacity building and implementation of the program leading to sustainability. We hope, we can achieve the MDGs in time, by ensuring that other similar programs would fit in to this mega program.

¹ *To mention a few examples. one big region was able to construct about 2,000:000 latrines recently and increase its latrine coverage from less than 10% to about 75%, while about 53,000 family dug wells were sunk in a year time in the other big region.*

Recently the concept of total sanitation and universal access to water supply is getting acceptance at governmental level.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the state of resource mobilization for the short term period of 2004-2006/07 it would be worth mentioning that the government has demonstrated its commitment by doubling its budget allocation for water supply and sanitation. Of the total Rural water supply and sanitation investment requirement which amounts to 2.6 billion USD, 0.55 billion USD is required for the short term. Partner's committed financial resources, government and community contribution has so far reached 0.32 billion USD leaving **a gap of about 0.23 billion USD. In the case of urban water supply and sanitation, of the total 4.74 billion USD investment requirements, around 1.01 billion USD is required for the short term. What is expected to be secured from the government and communities is about 0.29 billion leaving a gap of about 0.72 billion.**

Therefore, we would like to bring this situation to the attention of the high level ministerial segment meeting of CSD-13 with a view of timely acceleration of resource mobilization and capacity building.

I thank you