



UGANDA

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**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. KAHINDA OTAFIIRE  
MINISTER FOR WATER, LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT, UGANDA,**

**AT**

**THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT (CSD-13), 22nd APRIL 2005.**

**New York  
April 22, 2005**

**Please Check Against Delivery**

*Mr, Chairman,*

It gives me great pleasure to address the distinguished delegates of the CSD-13 of April 2005. Allow me to join the rest of the countries to associate my delegation with the statement made by the chair of the G77 and China.

*Mr. Chairman,*

In Uganda, poverty eradication is a fundamental goal of the Government's development strategy. In 2004, the Government revised the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), which is also the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). In the revised PRSP, we aim to create a framework for economic growth and structural transformation of the economy, security and to directly increase the ability of the poor to improve their incomes and quality of life through investment in social sectors including the water sector. The water sector aims to achieve 95-100% safe water supply coverage and 100% sanitation coverage by the year 2015.

The Government has prioritized, water, sanitation and human settlements on the development agenda and they make the first call on financial resource allocation among the 5 priority sectors. My Government will continue with ongoing land reforms and the use of enabling laws to address land tenure problems and the challenges of urbanization including growth of unplanned urban centers and informal settlements.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Attainment of the targets on water, sanitation and human settlement requires massive resources for investment both in infrastructure development and capacity building. These resources are not readily available to us due to our narrow domestic resource base and high debt burden. This calls for the fulfillment of commitments made **by the Developed Countries at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002** to increase the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Developing Countries to 0.7% of their GNP. Debt cancellation for poor countries particularly those in Africa and access to markets in the developed countries are crucial for mobilization of resources to achieve the MDGs and sustainable Development. While commitments have been made in certain areas, there have been insufficient and untimely actions taken to allow sufficient financial resources for sustainable development.

**I wish to reiterate that CSD-13 is yet** another opportunity at which we should take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation of all commitments and make further pledges in order to mobilize more financial and human resources for water, sanitation and human settlements.

*Mr. Chairman,*

**We take seriously, the UN findings that globally about 25,000 people still die from malnutrition every day and that 6,000 people mostly children under the age of five are dying from water-related Diseases. This situation can be reversed if the International Community and national governments commit financial resources, implement well co-coordinated pro-poor activities and address service delivery issues in the water, sanitation and human settlement sectors. This is achievable if we promote partnerships at all levels that bring together governments, and all stakeholders in a better co-coordinated manner. In this regard, my delegation aligns itself to all the delegations that have supported the African regional initiatives of the AMCOW and AMCHUD.**

**At the national level, the overall responsibility of providing safe clean water, sanitation facilities and improving human settlements lies with national and local governments. In addition, through the decentralization policy, capacity building and empowerment of local communities to plan and manage resources and facilities is crucial for efficient and effective service delivery. These are still weak or non-existent in the Developing Countries.**

**In conclusion, I reaffirm my Government's commitment to the WSSD outcomes and the MDGs. We all need to ensure that the path set at the WSSD is illuminated by implementation of commitments and monitoring of progress of our performance if we have to attain the MDG targets and Sustainable Development.**

**I thank you for your attention.**