

**STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA AT THE INTERACTIVE THEMATIC
DISCUSSIONS ON INTERLINKAGES, CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND MEANS
OF IMPLEMENTATION AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY
MEETING FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

NEW YORK, 3 MARCH 2011

Thank you Mr Chairman,

On behalf of South African delegation, I would like to thank the distinguished panelists for their interesting and informative presentations. Chairman, South Africa associate itself with the views expressed by the Group of 77 and China .

The five themes under discussion should be addressed in a coherent and integrated manner since they are closely intertwined. Sustainable consumption and production could play a central role in promoting coherence of the policy decision on the current themes and by ensuring that they are mutually reinforcing. Sustainable use of natural resources is essential in achieving the overriding objective of sustainable development namely that of poverty eradication.

The developing countries still face **various implementation challenges** related to the current thematic areas. Limited capacity and inadequate specialised technical skills in specific areas impedes their ability to attain the internationally agreed targets relating to the themes.

Throughout the thematic areas, it was highlighted that there is a need to be more **resource efficient and employ more environmentally sound management practices**, and this requires **specific skills**. An urgent focus on **new knowledge**, capacity building in terms of acquisition of **technical expertise and human resources development**, through the promotion of **focused partnerships**, and knowledge transfer

is unavoidable. Having identified data gaps throughout the thematic areas, data collection should be prioritised in order to augment research and development.

South Africa recognizes that, the **technology needs** for various thematic issues differ from country to country and are informed by different **situations**. This then calls for developed countries to provide well researched and customized **technology coupled with transfer of skills** or training. This is necessary in order to **overcome barriers towards technology deployment and transfer**, including institutional arrangements, and partnership development, while avoiding technology dumping practices.

Mr Chairman, international **financial institutions** could play a greater role in accelerating **investment** in developing countries. CSD 19 should further urge countries to fulfill the ODA commitments in order to expedite implementation of policy options relating to the themes under discussion. Innovative **financial solutions**, private sector and public-private partnerships, and improved governance structures are also crucial in this endeavor.

Thank you Chairman,