

South Africa Statement for CSD 17 IPM

Theme: Interlinkages, cross-cutting issues and means of implementation

Chairperson, South Africa associates itself with the statement made by Sudan on behalf of G77 and China.

The current CSD cycle focuses on issues that are at the core of development and poverty eradication. The interlinkages between Land, Agriculture, Rural Development, Drought & Desertification as well as Africa are clear and require integrated planning, implementation and monitoring. Water availability remains central to addressing all the themes in this cycle.

South Africa therefore puts forward the following policy options:

Notwithstanding efforts of the last decades, we urge for a more empowered and effective system of **international environmental governance** with the CSD as the UN agency responsible for the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development commitments.

South Africa remains concerned that current **patterns of unsustainable production and consumption** could lead to overshoot and collapse of the Earth's ecosystem; and we emphasise the importance of commitments and principles enshrined in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Millennium Development Goals.

There is an urgent need to review and stabilise the global economy and develop measures to curb the current global financial, food and energy challenges by enhancing **sustainable natural resource management including water, energy and land** as well as per capita consumption.

Climate change is probably the greatest threat to global sustainable development. Adaptation to climate change remains a key priority for African countries, SIDS and LDCs whose economies are dependent on activities affected by changes in the climate system.

A key to sustained global growth lies in **unlocking the growth potential of developing countries**, and to achieve this, developing countries must be allowed to pursue **economic development and industrialization in sectors where they possess comparative advantage, in particular Agriculture**. To this effect we also call for the successful and timely conclusion of the negotiations in the **Doha development round** of trade negotiations.

The full participation of major groups especially, , women and youth groups should be promoted to ensure that ethical and sustainable development considerations are taken into account in decision-making processes.

Financial resources, transfer of appropriate technology, research capacity, information dissemination and capacity-building at all levels are the most crucial means of implementation necessary for sustainable development. We call on the international community to fulfill its commitments, under amongst others the Monterrey consensus on financing for development.