

SOUTH AFRICA
CSD15 Theme: Means of Implementation and Cross-cutting Issues
02 May 2007

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

Chairperson, South Africa sees the CSD-15 as an action oriented session that should strive to strengthen and enhance the means of implementation critical to turning targets and commitments into action. The **Institutional framework for sustainable development** must receive the necessary attention. The CSD must remain relevant in a reformed United Nations, as the global platform to review progress in the implementation of the JPOI.

In addition to the institutional framework, there are a number of other cross cutting issues set out in the multi-year programme of the CSD, that are not reflected in the Chair's text and need to be included. In our view there should be specific sections in the text that deal with each of these issues, for example sustainable development linkages with poverty eradication, sustainable development in a globalizing world and sustainable development for Africa, SIDS and other regional initiatives.

As a general comment on the entire text, we believe that there must be clear allocation of responsibility for each of the policy options, at international, regional and national levels. As the text stands it is a shopping list with no clarity on who is responsible, and what the timeframe is.

Chairperson, South Africa fully supports statements made by other delegates on gender mainstreaming. Mainstreaming of **gender and youth** considerations in sustainable development policy, planning and decision-making processes is of paramount importance in achieving sustainable development. International and regional policy frameworks that integrate gender concerns with planning should be supported and strengthened. South Africa would like to announce its Gender and Energy side event scheduled to take place on the 8th of May at conference room 4 at 6h15pm.

Chairperson, **increased trade** is key to enhanced economic growth, industrial development and sustainable development, and thereby contributing to poverty eradication. Developing countries are making good progress in establishing sound development strategies and systems of governance. These efforts should be supported by increased, more effective, flexible and predictable aid flows on the one hand, and a concerted effort to progress further on the Doha trade round on the other, with development as the essential measure for defining success in the WTO negotiations.

To **realize the Monterrey Consensus**, we need an accelerated and integrated global effort through Overseas Development Assistance and the creation of an environment conducive for investment. South Africa expresses concern that the CSD is not fulfilling its role in monitoring progress on the ODA target of 0,7% of GDP, in relation to the implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes. A mechanism is needed to facilitate debate on gaps in international financing for sustainable development. At the WSSD, the international community committed itself to support **Africa's** sustainable development challenges and needs, and prioritized several actions relevant to the CSD-15 themes. However, the Chair's text failed to capture Africa's priority initiatives related to the sustainable development agenda including plans on Science and Technology, Disaster Risk Reduction, Hydropower Development, Electricity, Hydrocarbons and Nuclear Energy. **Financial support** is further required to implement NEPAD initiatives on energy, climate change, industrial development and air pollution.

The challenges of sustainable development cannot be met without the use of scientific knowledge, skills and **technology** for the benefit of developing countries and a coherent multilateral action and strategy on technology transfer is needed. This should be underpinned by action to remove barriers to the adoption of sustainable development technologies. The challenge of costly and restrictive intellectual property rights needs to be addressed, through the establishment of a Multilateral Technology Fund. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building is a key mechanism for promoting cooperation on technology transfer, but in the absence of financial support, it remains an empty shell.

The goals of sustainable development cannot be achieved when there is a high prevalence of illness and poverty, and the **health** of a population cannot be maintained without a responsive health system and a healthy environment. Climate change, air pollution, energy and industrial development coupled with environmental degradation, mismanagement of natural resources, and unhealthy consumption patterns and lifestyles have a direct and indirect impact on health, and the Chairs text should reflect policy options to address this.

I thank you