

**Statement by H.E. Fátima Veiga, Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of Cape Verde, in the High Level Segment of the
Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
(CSD-15) - “Turning Commitments into Action, Working together in
Partnership”
New York**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of Cape Verde, I wish to express appreciation to H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, for his able chairmanship of this Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15). We reiterate our full cooperation to you Mr. Chairman and to the Bureau for a successful outcome of the current cycle.

We fully support the statements delivered by the honorable Minister of State for Environment of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the distinguished Permanent Representative of Grenada, on behalf of G77 and China and AOSIS respectively.

On our national capacity we would like to make the following remarks:

If the issues on our agenda at this 15th CSD are of relevance for all nations, it is all the more so for developing countries and, in particular, Africa, LDCs, LLDs and SIDS. As we deliberate, we have therefore to bear in mind the special challenges and the special needs of these groups of countries.

Moreover and concerning SIDS, it's our profound conviction that in view of the mandate conferred to CSD, as the primary intergovernmental body responsible for the implementation of, and follow-up to, the commitments related to Small Island developing States, the BPoA and MSI should be considered both at the review and policy years.

Last year's review session revealed that, in spite of progress achieved, concrete actions should be taken to expedite implementation of commitments on sustainable development in the areas of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

Those areas are interlinked and impact each other. Therefore, only integrated and balanced policies, as well as effective partnerships, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities, can accelerate implementation. In defining policy guidance and actions, all major actors should be involved, through an inclusive and flexible process. At the same time and without losing sight of the need to set action oriented and tangible results, we need to be ambitious to live up to commitments taken in Johannesburg, Rio, Monterrey and Bali, among others.

On energy sector,

We have to promote development and dissemination of renewable energy technologies and increase the share of renewables in the global energy mix as agreed to in JPOI and MSI. In this context, we welcome targets established by Member States and support EU proposals for policy decisions to increase energy efficiency, access to energy and the share of renewables (and, in particular, voluntary targets setting).

In the specific case of Cape Verde, only 3% of the total energy produced comes from renewable sources, in spite of its large potential for renewables development, in particular wind and solar. To inflect this situation, a strategy has been adopted, which addresses the legal, technical, economic and financial constraints to development of renewables. Studies on renewable potentials, training, and acquisition of equipments for wind and

solar are, among others, elements of that strategy. Targets have been also established for wind (25%) and solar (3%) expansion in the energy mix for 2011. Yet, financial means are still insufficient to achieve those targets.

While expanding electrification projects to improve living conditions in the rural areas, Cape Verde is seeking partnerships to replace biomass (firewood and coal) by more efficient and clean energy in order to reduce vulnerability for most affected populations at the environmental, economic and social levels.

On Industrial Development,

Industrial development is a driving tool for economic growth and eradication of poverty. Concrete actions should therefore be taken to promote technology transfer on favorable terms and mobilize financial resources for sustainable industrial development, including in developing countries, Africa, SIDS, LDC'S and LLDC'S.

On Climate change and Air Pollution

We welcome the leadership of Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in placing Climate Change high in his agenda and appointing three Special Envoys to assist him in addressing this issue, in preparation for the High Level Summit. We pledge our support to the Secretary General and his Special Envoys and urge him to also nominate a representative from SIDS as a Special Envoy, since this group of countries are the most affected by climate changes, although they contribute the least to that phenomenon.

Like other SIDS, Cape Verde is very vulnerable to climate change, a situation which is aggravated by insularity. A study is being undertaken to identify the main root causes of vulnerability in each sector of economic activity and to collect data for public policies on mitigation and adaptation.

This process will lead to the adoption of a National Plan of Action for Adaptation to Climate changes.

Mitigation goes hand in hand with adaptation. Mitigation and adaptation should therefore be streamlined not only in national development strategies but also in international assistance programs. Urgent action is needed to fully operationalize the adaptation funds established under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, including the CDM, and simplify developing countries access to them.

Countries, which contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions, should set broader reduction targets. Agreement should be thought on a broad and ambitious post 2012 Commitment Period.

Means of implementation

Enhanced accessibility to existing funds and innovative financing mechanisms is paramount in assisting developing countries, particularly SIDS, research development and dissemination of renewable energy, setting up of cleaner production centers and implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Adequate technical assistance will facilitate transfer of technology and capacity building to enable them to cope with the serious challenges they are facing and implement the policy options included in JPOI, BPOA and Mauritius Strategy.

While welcoming existing partnerships for regional risk insurance facilities for SIDS, we call for a more comprehensive implementation of such risk management initiatives. Is it worth considering their extension to other regions and groups in the framework of disseminating best practices, on the basis of voluntary commitments.

The early and successful conclusion of the Doha Round of Trade negotiations, investments scaling up, increasing ODA and other financing flows, as well as access to technology for the developing countries have to be considered in the framework of global partnerships, as important assets in implementing the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. economic development, social development and environment development.

Thank you for your attention.