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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Martin BURSÍK
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic

“Turning Commitments into Action, Working together in Partnership”

15th SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
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Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express my appreciation to the Chairman of the CSD-15, H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah, for his able leadership of the CSD-15. The representative of the Czech Republic as the Vice-Chair of the CSD-15 Bureau is honoured to work with you, Excellency.

The Czech Republic fully supports the statement of Germany on behalf of the European Union. **As a Member State of the European Union, the Czech Republic participates in the EU activities relevant to the CSD-15 themes. The European Council Conclusions from March 2007 on energy and climate change issues are quite challenging for the EU Member States and we hope inspiring for other countries.**

Please let me make some remarks in regard to the efforts in turning commitments into action.

At the national level, in order to implement our commitments on the current thematic cluster, we use a **wide range of means**. These are policy, legal, economic and voluntary instruments and tools to promote technology research, innovations and development and to increase public awareness of sustainable development issues as well.

Talking about the CSD-15 themes, I can **mention some examples of instruments already applied**, such as the Act on Energy Management, the State Energy Strategy, the State Programme to Support Savings and Use of Renewable Energy Sources, the Act on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, the Act on Air Protection, the National Programme to Reduce Emissions, the National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the Czech Republic that are regularly evaluated and updated to reflect the latest development of science, technology development and practical experience.

In addition to these, the **voluntary instruments are promoted** such as quality systems and systems of environmental management of companies according to the standards of the ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series, and voluntary activities and agreements, namely National Cleaner Production Programme, National Programme of Introducing Environmental Management Systems, Ecolabelling Programme etc.

Thanks to **regular evaluation of the relevant national policy frameworks**, we recognize that there is still much to improve in achieving sustainable development targets in the CSD-15 agenda.

Therefore, we are **preparing the ecological tax reform, which means a shift away from labour taxation towards taxes on products and services the production and consumption of which have negative impacts on the environment and human health**. The purpose of the reform is focused on **reducing the energy intensity of economy and unit of GDP by 40% by 2020** and also material intensity to support increase the competitiveness of economy and at the same time technological quality of production and to create new jobs. Besides, based on June 2005 Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Production and Consumption in the Czech Republic, the action programmes are currently finalized.

We are open to share our experience in promoting sustainable development goals related to energy, climate change, air pollution and industry, and sustainable production and consumption with other countries.

We know, it is insufficient to promote sustainable development only at the national level or within a region we belong to. The sustainable development concerns every citizen and every country on Earth. Therefore, there is a need for an effective international development cooperation. The bilateral projects of the **international development cooperation of the Czech Republic related to the CSD-15 issues** are inter alia focused on implementation of multilateral environmental agreements targets (e.g. climate change, ozone layer, transboundary air pollution), sustainable use of natural resources, renewable energy sources, cleaner production, new environmental technologies and energy efficiency. In financial terms, the projects in the field of the environment amounted to almost 33%, and the projects in the area of the industrial development amounted to 21% of the total volume of the Czech bilateral cooperation in 2006, not mentioning our share on multilateral aid.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reassure you that the Czech Republic will do its best to reflect expected outcomes of the CSD-15 in promoting sustainable trends in energy, industrial development, in reducing air pollution and in addressing climate change issues.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.