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The Permanent Mission of Egypt
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New York

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**THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF
THE 15th SESSION OF THE
UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT
BY**

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MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

EGYPT

New York, May 9th, 2007

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to participate in this distinguished gathering of the Fifteenth session of the commission for sustainable development, which is particularly significant in view of the importance of the four issues on its agenda, and their relevance to our endeavors to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

I remain convinced that concerted efforts are needed to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development, as agreed upon in Agenda 21, the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit.

Within this concept, I wish to discuss one of the most important subjects for us all; energy for sustainable development on which Egypt's long-term energy strategy is based, including the following elements:

- Energy mix.
- Maximum use of natural gas.
- Utilization of available renewable energy resources.
- Continuous improvement in energy efficiency measures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the fact that 99% of Egypt's population has access to electricity, the growing demand for electricity to meet development plans and better protection of environment, ranges between 6 to 7% annually ,which makes it imperative to resort to the use of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

With excellent wind regime in Egypt, we have achieved several milestones, such as 230 MW of wind farms are now in operation and 320 MW under implementation. In addition, 150 MW solar thermal hybrid power is in the contracting phase.

Our recent plan of action targets satisfaction of 20% of the demand for electricity from renewable resources, mainly wind, in addition to the hydropower, by 2020.

Overcoming constraints and obstacles that delay the realization of the Goals of Agenda 21 necessitates an outstanding consideration concerning the main barriers, whereas, at the forefront are the following:

- First: Lack of aggressive financing cleaner energy supply projects.
- Second: Constraining terms linked to the transfer of advanced energy technologies.
- Third: High cost of the alternative, cleaner and most efficient energy technologies.
- Fourth: Forms of regional cooperation still in great need to large support.

At the forefront of all policies & measures to overcome these difficulties, we look forward to achieve the following:

- Provide increased international support to regional cooperation activities, such as African hydropower, including cross-border integration.
- Enhance diversification of primary energy resources, in addition to support efforts to develop technical and institutional capacities.
- Expand and increase technology cooperative programs to expedite the deployment of renewables, as well as the advanced clean fossil, including carbon capture and storage.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to state that we must work together to reach the best solutions for sustainable energy development for our nations to meet the current needs without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.

THANK YOU