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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. ALEMAYEHU TEGENU
MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

**At THE
FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (CSD-14)**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

11 MAY, 2006

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor,

On behalf of my delegation and on my own allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election to guide the 14 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As many delegations who spoke before me, let me emphasize the integrated nature of the four themes under discussion. I would focus my intervention on our efforts to expand access to modern sources of energy.

The energy situation in Ethiopia is characterized by lack of access to electricity and modern energy services. More than 83% of the population in Ethiopia does not have access to electricity and more than 94% of the population relies on fuel wood as their main service of energy for cooking and heating. The availability of energy, especially electrical power, offers economic development opportunities and contributes substantially to the reduction of poverty, protection of the environment as well as to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to share with you my country's effort on the electricity sector development to meet energy requirement of the country for sustainable development.

Ethiopia is endowed with abundant hydro-power potential which is estimated at 45,000 MW. This potential is the second largest in Africa.

Up to now, we have developed less than 3% of our potential. In order to help eradicate poverty and to realize social transformation, Ethiopia has recently launched an aggressive but attainable Universal Electrification Access Program (UEAP). The objective of Universal Electrification Access Program is to extend the national electricity access for 6,000 villages, towns and irrigation water supply sites by 2010. This will increase the access to electricity from the current 17 per cent to 50% of the estimated 87 million people by 2010.

The key to achieving the targets we have set for access to energy would be through increasing our hydro power generation. Ethiopia has a number of hydro projects under construction. There are also six hydro projects whose feasibility study is ready and bankable for public and private financing.

One unique feature of our energy development program is its regional dimension. In addition to the projects I mentioned above, there are four regional projects under pre-feasibility study whose total installed capacity is more than 5000 MW. These would be accompanied by regional interconnection programs with our neighboring countries. In this regard, as part of the Nile Basin initiative, we have the Eastern Nile Power Trade Investment Program which includes Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt.

I would like to emphasize that these generation, transmission and distribution projects have taken into consideration international standard of environmental and social impact.

Mr. Chairman,

Implementation of our national energy program and making our communities benefit from it is not going to be easy. There are many challenges. One of the challenges in developing hydro-power potential is its huge investment outlays. Here we need our development partners to proactively engage in addressing the shortage of investment by devising a smooth financing scheme compatible with our development need without any delay and unacceptable preconditions.

One of the most important issues that my government recognizes in its strategy is how to address the dependence on fuel wood. Currently, the main source of energy services at household levels is fuel wood. This has been associated with massive deforestation and resultant land degradation. The increasing scarcity of fuel wood is also compounded by high population growth rate. The situation can only be reversed through rapid economic growth in the rural areas. This demands, with respect to the energy economy, the expansion of rural electrification which in turn demand, strong participation of the community and private sector to provide the energy services including the development of renewable energy resources like solar, wind and geothermal. This will be promoted through capacity building like at HH level efficient cooking stoves should be done to attain self-sufficiency.

Finally, I call up on all to support our energy development program to bring sustainable development and end poverty.

I thank you.