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STATEMENT
OF H.E. DR. MAMADOU LAMINE BA,
MINISTER FOR PREVENTION, PUBLIC HYGIENE
AND SANITATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL
AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING
FOR THE 13TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

New York, 28 February 2005

(Check against delivery)

**Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I have great pleasure to represent my Government, the Republic of Senegal and to address this eminent body for the first time to report on the first «Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all (WASH) Forum», that was hosted and organised jointly by the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), in Dakar from 29 November to 3 December 2004.

Attended by over 500 participants from 75 countries including representatives of Governments, 35 ministers, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, academic, research and training institutions, the private sector and other members of civil society, the Global WASH Forum produced three successful outcomes as contributions to CSD-13: the «Dakar Statement», the «Dakar Actions and Commitments» and the «Dakar Roadmap for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water and sanitation .

These concrete and practical results drew on real, meaningful actions that have taken place at country level in many parts of the world. They are based on the work of thousands of stakeholders that share one common goal : to cut down the unacceptably high numbers of deaths and diseases that still plague many developing countries, especially the poorest of the poor, in both urban and rural areas. These unserved populations continue to live in abject poverty and are denied their health and human dignity, due to the lack of basic sanitation, hygiene and safe water. Without an integrated approach of these three elements there will be no impact and all efforts for the MDGs will be in vain, since the fight against poverty starts with the fight against the above-mentioned scourges

Why am I convinced that I should promote now this cause at this Preparatory Meeting for CSD-13? To carry the messages from the WASH Forum and those of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, who issued a special declaration expressing his strong commitment and genuine resolve to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Action, by putting sanitation and hygiene at the centre of the sustainable development agenda. For, without this integrated approach of linking the three crucial elements of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), the world will continue to witness the 'silent emergency' of some 6,000 children dying every day, because we have turned a blind eye to this reality, or may be because of our carelessness or even our unconsciousness.

Soon after the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, H.E. President Wade was the first Head of State to show his commitment by establishing a new Ministry for Prevention, Public Hygiene and Sanitation, which I have the daunting and exciting privilege to lead. I am in charge of implementing the vision of President Wade, according to which the MDGs are achievable through national subsidies and assistance from external donors. In this regard, actions must be taken at the local, national and regional levels :

For example, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) has recently taken on «AMI-WASH » as an advocacy initiative to help African countries. I have just returned from a successful AFRICASAN conference in Ouagadougou which was sponsored by the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank (WSP), the WSSCC and other partners.

In South Asia as well, a similar initiative called « South Asian Ministers Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) », was first held in Bangladesh in 2003 and will be followed by a major conference this November called SACOSAN 2005 to be hosted by the Government of Pakistan. These regional efforts should be supported and encouraged for knowledge exchange, information-sharing and capacity building through cooperation between Africa and Asia, between Latin America and Africa. All these initiatives could obviously not succeed if we do not enjoy the support of developed Countries and other development partners.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me also remind this august assembly that one of the agreed action plans in Johannesburg was to integrate sanitation in Integrated Resources Management (IWRM). Without the promotion of sanitation in river basins and in catchment areas, water quality can not be conserved. High priority must also be given to wastewater recycling issues and the technology must be made available to developing countries at low cost in order to make it affordable. I am happy to announce that in Senegal we decided to launch a wastewater network with the assistance of WASH and under the coordination of WSSCC. We intend, by 2010, to set up, in all secondary towns, a sanitation network as well as waste water recycling and lagoonage stations for the re-use of processed water in agriculture and construction. Rural sanitation will also be dealt with, and by 2015 we aim to make available to about 80% of the population adequate sanitation networks. We wish that this option will be followed by all other developing Countries in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America. As you see, such an ambitious program needs a catalytic support and seed money for local initiatives, a

strong encouragement from the international community and an integrated approach as agreed in the WSSD action plan.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have only ten years left before the 2015 deadline! We do not have the luxury of time nor unlimited resources to delay action even more— so we must act now! I call on each and every one of us to heed the call of Dakar to alleviate the suffering of the 2.4 billion people without adequate sanitation and the 1.2 billion without a safe water supply.

I therefore solemnly urge all the Member States and development partners to use the Global WASH Forum outcomes, in particular, the Dakar Roadmap, as a model to follow in developing national policies and approaches for attaining the MDGs.

Based on our experience in Senegal and in other African countries, we are convinced that we will succeed in the realization of sustainable development and in the fight against poverty, mainly if we involve the populations, particularly the women and the young people in the management of water, sanitation and hygiene programmes; we still have a chance, let's not disregard it, if we are resolute to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Once again, I would like to underline the commitment of Senegal to take the lead in Africa and elsewhere in the world, by sharing our knowledge, while willing to learn from others and work in partnership with those who are ready to rise up to the challenge. As put by President Abdoulaye Wade « Water, sanitation and hygiene are basic factors for sustainable development. This is a primary challenge which must be met if we want to fight against poverty and help human beings reclaim their dignity ».

I thank you.