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**STATEMENT
BY**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING**

**ON THE OVERALL REVIEW
OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**TWELFTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Check against delivery

Mr Chairman

The report of the Secretary-General on the overall review of implementation indicates that the world continues to be confronted by worsening poverty, hunger, ill health, illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the natural resource base on which we depend for our well being. The review shows that while some progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the global community still faces significant challenges.

CSD 12 offers us the opportunity to review progress and identify possible approaches that could enhance implementation of the MDGs, in particular the goal of halving, by 2015 the proportion of people living on less than 1 dollar a day. This CSD also offers us an opportunity to begin a serious exchange of views on how we see the UN major event of 2005 contributing to the implementation of sustainable development.

In South Africa we have recently completed a review of the impact of our Government's policies over the past decade, as they relate to poverty eradication. The review has shown significant achievements but also highlights enormous challenges that still need to be addressed. In 1995 approximately 28% of households and 48% of the population were living below the estimated poverty line. Some of the programmes of the government aimed at addressing this situation have resulted in the provision of an additional 1.5 million houses to people without shelter. Electricity, water and sanitation have also been provided to millions of South Africans who once lacked these basic services.

Mr Chairman

As you aware South Africa is celebrating ten years of freedom and democracy during this year. The progress that we have made in South Africa has been the result of a fundamental policy shift since 1994 that emphasised an integrated approach to governance and co-operation between all spheres of government. It can also be ascribed to the existence of a social compact that recognises the important role of civil society and stakeholders in the delivery of services. The growth of the South African economy during the past decade has also been an important factor in our achievements. In fact we are confident that we will either meet some of the MDGs or be much closer to fulfilling them.

Despite the progress that we have made, we still need to address a number of key challenges including:

- The need to enhance intergovernmental co-ordination to achieve greater efficiency and effective targeting of service delivery
- Increased alignment of programmes to accelerate implementation of the integrated sustainable rural development and urban renewal interventions
- Creation of structured economic frameworks to facilitate the provision of economic opportunities including through job creation and interventions such as micro-credit facilities

developed action plans for key priorities, including infrastructure, agriculture, health and environment.

As we indicated earlier 2005 is a significant year for the United Nations and the international community. There will be a convergence of the review of implementation of the outcomes of many major international meetings, including the Copenhagen and Beijing Summits. This points to the critical importance of an integrated and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of these outcomes. We should therefore also consider how our own work in CSD 12 and CSD 13 contributes to this process. Enhanced co-ordination and collaboration among UN agencies and programmes is critical in this regard. It is our hope that the policy discussions during CSD 13 will lead us to solutions that accelerate achievement of the MDGs and JPOI goals and targets.