

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CSD16 Theme: Interlinkages and cross-cutting Issues

Mradam Chair

I would like to thank the distinguished panel for their context-giving presentations. South Africa associates itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the G77 + China..

South Africa believes that a higher and sustained level of economic growth is necessary if developing countries are to make any significant progress in achieving the poverty reduction and sustainable development targets by 2015. Africa's economy largely depends on agricultural goods and services and the sustainability of this sector is therefore core to reaching the set development goals. The themes of CSD 16 &17 provide us with an opportunity to take stock and develop policy options aimed at enhancing implementation.

The interlinkages between Land, Agriculture, Drought & Desertification as well as Africa are clear and require integrated planning and management.

Land Tenure and equitable land ownership; including the appropriate mechanisms for land administration and formalization of land rights is intrinsically linked with the need to ensure that the poor have access to arable land. Post settlement support forms an important element for ensuring the sustainable use and management of land.

We need to enhance Programmes that seeks to increase the productivity and sustainability of the natural resources base to ensure optimum beneficiation that could contribute towards job creation and a better quality of life for all.

Climate change impacts and an increase in natural disasters pose serious constraints and challenges against efforts to combat desertification & drought, ensure sustainable Agriculture, land use planning as well as sustainable development in Africa. Climate Change mitigation and

adaptation plans and actions must be at the center of national development strategies to ensure coherence and integration.

The escalating global food prices and shortage is a challenge requiring immediate attention, with a need to ensure targeted and timed interventions. The global imbalances in agricultural trade continue to contribute to the widening gap between the North and South, the clear imbalance between imports and exports mean that African Countries are forced to import more food and thereby further compromising production and beneficiation capacities. Policy responses to the food crises should focus on income support to the most vulnerable populations as well as efforts to increase production capacity.

Sustainable development efforts must take into account health implications, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, vector-borne diseases like malaria, water-borne diseases like cholera as well as a significant amount of nutrition related conditions are at a center of this CSD's thematic cycle and we call for improved preventative and prophylactic efforts.

The importance of women and youth participating in sustainable development is undebatable as delegates to CSD 16 generally acknowledged this in many ways. There is a need for ds clear progressive plan of action by CSD 16 on the implementation of existing policies and agreements that seek to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and youth development in dealing with the thematic areas of this session.

My delegation looks forward to the review of the CSD13 decisions on water, as it is at the center of the CSD 16 themes and a key resource in ensuring economic development in Africa. In achieving the development goals, it is important that water management be undertaken in an integrated manner.

Thank You