

15TH Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development:
Turning Commitments into Action

UK National Statement

1. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen. The UK aligns itself with the statement made by Germany on behalf of the EU.
2. Five years ago in Johannesburg we *agreed* to take collective action, to turn our commitments into implementation and to achieve sustainable development. Today, the need to take action has become more urgent.
3. CSD14 took stock of progress on the critical issues of energy for sustainable development, climate change, industrial development and air pollution. We heard then that progress is not keeping pace with the rate at which our environment is degrading and our climate is changing.
4. I am hearing the message 'must do better' again and again. The IPPC report tells us that our current level of activity is unacceptable. More needs to be done and it needs to be done now. This CSD offers us a unique opportunity to do just that.
5. I want to build on a few of the EU priorities outlined by Germany. At this CSD we must agree some central actions that will help us all. Actions such as integrating the four thematic cluster issues into country-led development plans and development assistance strategies. This will ensure a coherent approach to our economic, social and development priorities and make real progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and Johannesburg Commitments.
6. Energy supply and access is crucial. We know that fossil fuel will continue to be used. We should agree to share experience on how to increase energy efficiency, and promote both the development and deployment of renewables and of cleaner technologies including safe carbon capture and storage. These technologies will help reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and maximise resource efficiency, stimulating jobs and growth. This is a must.
7. We need to recognise the special needs and characteristics of each country and region. The EU has decided on its own time-bound targets, and thinks that if others do that they will reap benefits.
8. Much has been said about capacity building and finance. We should facilitate access to finance, making best use of the Clean Development Mechanism and Clean Energy Investment Framework.
9. I am optimistic that we can make significant process in the next few years. Let's get on with it and move forward this week.