



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF  
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT  
BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AT THE  
13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF AMCHUD**

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**Check against delivery**

Chairperson,

I have the honour to present this report on behalf of Dr Lindiwe Sisulu, Chairperson of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) and Minister of Housing of South Africa. The inaugural meeting of the AMCHUD, hosted by the South African Government, the African Union and UN-HABITAT was held in Durban, South Africa from 3 to 4 February 2005. The AMCHUD adopted the Durban Declaration and the Enhanced Framework of Implementation as the guiding programme for the development of human settlements in Africa. It is the hope of African Ministers that the positions reflected in the Enhanced Framework will be taken into account in the discussions and the outcomes of this session of the CSD.

We are pleased that this session of the CSD takes place a few days after the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT. We also meet in advance of the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals in September 2005.

At its inaugural meeting in Durban the AMCHUD noted the predominant challenge of poverty facing the African continent. It further noted, within that context, the critical challenge and the need to addressing the growth of slums in Africa. It is projected that in the next 30 years Africa's population will have doubled from 888 million in 2005 to 1,77 billion. In the same period its urban population will increase from 353 million to 748 million at the rate of 4 to 5 percent of which 71.9% currently lives in slums.

Chairperson,

Over the years, our collective efforts have ensured that the plight of the poor, the plight of those living in slums found its rightful place in the global agenda. It is our hope that the establishment of the AMCHUD and the adoption of the African common position, the Enhanced Framework of Implementation, will ensure that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Africa will no longer continue to progress at the margins of the rest of the world. We fervently believe that should fundamental progress be achieved collectively all of us, developing and developed countries will benefit.

Through the Enhanced Framework of Implementation our Ministers have articulated a programme to promote consistent and collective approaches to urban development in Africa. The framework highlights issues such as access to land, the mobilization of domestic resources to fund the development of human settlements, and the importance of external assistance including the need for the elimination of the debt burden in order to enable African countries to meet Millennium Development Goals. The framework also calls for the creation of specific capacity building measures and a fund dedicated to facilitating the establishment of human settlements in Africa, including the establishment of a financial sector that supports the development of human settlements in each country and that is responsive to national needs and priorities.

AMCHUD is committed to ensuring that in developing the urban environment in Africa markets also contribute to urban development. The Ministers committed themselves to ensuring that sustainable development takes place and that Africa in the long-term achieves self-sufficiency. These are the goals to which Africa has committed its political will.

Lastly it was also agreed that the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Development would serve as the focal point in Africa for all issues concerning urban development and human settlements. I would also like to commend the Enhanced Framework of Implementation and the Durban Declaration as the common African position to the deliberations that will be taking place in this session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

In conclusion, we urge the international community to support the implementation of the programmes identified by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development.

On behalf of Minister Sisulu, I thank you, Chairperson.