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**STATEMENT**  
**by the Representative of the Delegation of the Russian Federation**  
**to the Twelfth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

April 19, 2004

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Delegation believes that the main purpose of the current stage of international co-operation in the field of sustainable development is to focus the efforts of the international community on a consistent and comprehensive implementation of the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable development in Johannesburg (WSSD) while taking into account, in a balanced manner, the specificities of countries and groups of countries and ensuring the harmonisation of the pace of the realisation of the outcomes of WSSD in all the regions of the world. The new modalities of work of the Commission on Sustainable development agreed to at CSD-11 and the Multiyear Programme of work provide a sort of "road map" for successful progress in this direction and deployment of smooth and result-oriented work.

We believe that the work of this session of CSD should be organised in such a way as to enable us to analyse the first practical results of the implementation of the WSSD outcomes on the basis of the information on water, sanitation, and human settlements contained in the Secretary-General's reports, and achieve consensus on the problems that remain to be resolved. The assessment that will be carried out during the session should enable a deeper understanding of the obstacles on the way to the implementation of the WSSD outcomes, and contribute to the elaboration of effective policy decisions to remove them during the forthcoming "Policy Session" of the CSD.

In implementing the WSSD decisions, it is important to focus on the national and regional dimensions. We appreciate the regional fora that took place in the framework of the preparations for CSD-12. We think that on the basis on their outcomes, it will be possible to find adequate solutions to synchronise the pace of implementation of the WSSD decisions in the field of water, sanitation, and human settlements in different regions, and ensure that the implementation work takes into account the regional specificities. It would be useful to use more actively in UN bodies the experts and specialists capable of evaluating the effectiveness of the initiatives that are being put forward in the regional and subregional context, and contributing to their optimal co-ordination with countries' national efforts.

Another important aspect is comprehensive consideration, in the framework of the analysis in the fields of water, sanitation, and human settlements, of the economic, environmental and social dimensions, and their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

While considering the problems of water and sanitation, it is important to keep in mind that to achieve the Johannesburg goals and objectives in this field, it important to work towards

practical implementation at all levels of the concept of integrated water resources management taking into account environmental and social factors. Of great importance for long-term work in the field of water is the decision to proclaim 2005-2015 as a UN "Water for Life" Decade adopted by the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. This decision strengthens the institutional framework of the international co-operation to take concrete measures to implement the decisions of international fora on water and sanitation.

We also attach great importance to comprehensive implementation of the WSSD outcomes on human settlements. The solution of the housing problem is relevant for our country too because of the growing necessity to address acute housing issues in the Russian Federation and providing the citizens with adequate housing. We believe that in addressing the issues of human settlements, it is necessary to aim for comprehensive solutions without limiting this theme to the provision of housing to the poorest populations, and ensure a wider inclusion of such aspects as the development of modern infrastructure of human settlements, solution to the problems of waste management, implementation of targeted economic mechanisms to provide incentives to the middle class and poorer sections of the population to participate in investments in housing construction programmes. Within this theme, it is also necessary to pay due attention to the questions of optimisation of the process of urbanisation, ensuring a better co-ordination of implementation activities with countries' priorities in the field of sustainable development of human settlements, implementation of the principles of sustainable development of cities taking into account the scientifically justified factor of their ecological capacity.

These are our general approaches to the themes proposed for consideration in the current cycle of the work of CSD. During the forthcoming panel sessions we intend to provide more detailed information on our national experiences in the fields of water, sanitation, and human settlements.

Thank you.