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**STATEMENT
BY
SOUTH AFRICA**

**TO THE
14TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**“OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND
THE JOHANNESBURG PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION”**

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the South African Government, I congratulate you and the Bureau on your election and leadership in this process.

We associate ourselves with the earlier statements by the Group of 77 and China, as well as the Africa group.

CSD 14 is an important meeting for us, as it creates yet another opportunity to review progress on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the goals set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

We meet timeously as the world continues to feel the pinch of global energy insecurity, the impact of climate change on our natural resources, on people's livelihoods and on the global fight against poverty.

We are also meeting when we in the developing world are beginning to develop and implement robust industrial development strategies. This progress takes place despite uncertainties, and yet in the hope that the continuing negotiations in the World Trade Organization will succeed and will address the existing imbalances and inequities that prejudice the trade and development interests of developing countries. South Africa is committed to the full implementation of the Doha Development Agenda and urges all partners to view development as the essential measure for defining success in the current round of WTO negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

We agreed at CSD 11 that the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, climate change and air pollution are integrated and complementary and must be addressed in a balanced manner.

We further agreed that our discussions should identify the barriers and constraints in implementing the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

In Johannesburg we agreed that the greatest challenge of our time was the eradication of poverty, and that to meet this challenge, we need to change our unsustainable patterns of production and consumption as well as protect and manage the natural resource base of economic and social development – all of which are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.

Our frank assessment is that whilst significant progress has been made in many developing countries with implementation of the JPOI, these actions are not being equally matched by actions in the developed world to address unsustainable growth and the resulting depletion of the natural resource base. The continuing and increasing levels of poverty, underdevelopment and natural resource degradation in the developing world cries out for more action.

Last year at the five year review of the Millennium Summit, the Millennium Project reports clearly indicated that failure in meeting the MDGs is more than just an inconvenience to the world's poor, but rather a matter of the survival of humanity.

Next year, 2007, marks the five-year milestone since the Johannesburg Summit. If we continue to send the same message of failure to meet the MDGs and JPOI targets, many may well give up hope.

Mr. Chairman,

We should not fail to uphold the commitment made by world leaders at the WSSD in 2002, to act now before it is too late.

Whilst some countries and the donor community have met their commitments, particularly those that we agreed upon at the Monterrey Financing for Development Conference, there are those that continue to move at a slower pace and with conditionalities.

To realize the Monterrey Consensus, we need an accelerated and integrated global effort through Overseas Development Assistance, the creation of an environment conducive for investment and an equitable and fair trading system. In addition we need a global science and technology for development agenda that promotes technology transfer as well as appropriate capacity building programmes that are underpinned by viable financing mechanisms.

South Africa, attaches great importance to the contribution of our major groups and of business and industry towards the achievement of the JPOI targets. We can without doubt say that their efforts channeled through partnerships that are locally driven, government supported and monitored can complement our efforts and ultimately make a difference.

The Commission on Sustainable Development must remain relevant in a reformed United Nations, as a global platform to review and measure progress in the implementation of the global sustainable development agenda. We have a responsibility to ensure that the CSD is strengthened in its role of holding all of us accountable for our commitments to achieving sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman

By the end of CSD14 it is our hope that we have sufficiently explored the barriers and constraints to implementation in a manner that enables us at CSD 15 to define and agree on clear action to unblock and expedite implementation.

In addition, in view of the fact that CSD 15 marks five years since the WSSD, the Commission should consider integrating a five year review into its organization of work.

We look forward to a meaningful and constructive meeting

I thank you.