DRAFT

STATEMENT BY
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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Chair, South Africa associates itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China.

Chair, the achievement of sustainable development agenda remains critical for developing countries, particularly in Africa. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on policies that promote and support economic growth to enhance poverty reduction efforts and help to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as other internationally agreed goals.

Chair, CSD 19 should agree on concrete policy actions and measures that will expedite implementation of sustainable development agenda. These policy actions should be supported by clear means of implementation and political will to address the challenges we identified during CSD 18.

Chair, chemicals will continue being important for economic development, particularly their use in the form of agricultural and household products. However, the increased use of chemicals will raise management challenges specifically for developing countries. Therefore, technical and financial support as well as education and awareness are crucial to address challenges associated with chemicals in developing nations. Furthermore, synergies of relevant conventions, accessibility of information and reliable data including to all users of chemicals including implementation of Global Harmonised System need to be promoted.

Socio-economic development will increase waste generation. This will increase the need for enhanced technological, technical and financial support in most developing countries. In

order to address challenges associated with waste, there must be a shift towards policies that promote waste as a resource. Therefore, integrated waste management policies should focus on the 3R approach which includes reduce, re-use and recycling. The growing challenge of the transboundary shipment of hazardous waste, specifically e-waste is of concern. Extended producer responsibility must be adopted in dealing with waste.

Sustainable consumption and production offers an opportunity for us to reflect on resource efficiency. The establishment of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production should facilitate support of existing regional and national programmes that promote resource efficiency. The Institutional coordination for the implementation of the framework should be supported with necessary means of implementations.

Chair, transport is key in promoting economic growth, connectivity and trade in the African region. It enables the movement of people, products and services. CSD19 decisions must seek to address the challenges of skills, infrastructure costs and maintenance. The ongoing cooperation with development partners in the areas of sustainable infrastructure development such as Bus Rapid Transit Systems, Railway and high speed Rail Systems is needed.

At the heart of the sustainable development debate is the balance between the triple bottom line and development, particularly for the mining sector. It is crucial to adopt policy decisions that will strike a balance between economic, social, and environmental impacts associated with the mining activities.

Finally, Chairperson,

Finance, technology and capacity building continue to be fundamental. The Commission of Sustainable Development must seriously consider the views raised by the major groups. Building partnerships and strengthening cooperation, including South-South and South -North Cooperation is critical.

Infrastructure development, information and communication technologies must be promoted. Global science and technology remains key for a development agenda that promotes technology development, transfer and capacity building, which are underpinned by viable financing mechanisms.

We look forward to policy outcome that will expedite implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

I thank you.

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