

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AFRICA
BY MS KELEABETSWE TLOUANE: DIRECTOR: PLANNING AND COORDINATION;
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ON THE THEME: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION,
AT THE INTERACTIVE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
New York, 7 May 2010

Chairperson

On behalf of the South African delegation, I would like to thank the distinguished panel members for their presentations. South Africa aligns with the G77 and China and shares the views expressed in the statement made by Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group. We meet timeously to discuss the issue of sustainable consumption and production as the world faces a multitude of crisis, including the energy, food and financial crisis as well as the threats posed by climate change. Given the crises that we face globally, there is a need to minimize the negative environmental impacts from production and consumption in the society and manage our natural resource base closely.

As the global community undertook to take action to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns during WSSD in 2002, South Africa has made significant progress in encouraging and promoting SCP. South Africa has been active in participating in international processes, including the Marrakech process, as well as the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Significant progress has been made through the development of suite of legislation on energy, waste management, integrated water resources management and a major move towards cleaner production has been piloted and implemented through industry and increased consumer protection and awareness. The National Cleaner Production Center was established to facilitate industrial development through energy, water and materials efficiency. South Africa's business sector has also shown significant commitment towards sustainable consumption and production initiatives through the National Business Initiative, a voluntary group of leading national and multi-national companies that aims to advance development in South Africa through partnerships, practical programmes and policy engagement.

Although South Africa has progressed well in encouraging and promoting SCP there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed. The low cost of resources such as water and electricity has in the past contributed to patterns of production and consumption that are wasteful and inefficient. This has given a significant impetus to search for safe, clean and affordable energy to meet the supply requirements. There is a severe shortage of relevant skills needed for research and technological innovation. Global science and technology remains key for a development agenda that promotes technology transfer and capacity building, which are underpinned by viable financing mechanisms. Public private partnerships will be an important means to increasing and targeting funding and the technical training required to implement SCP related projects. Education and awareness on energy efficiency and waste minimization need to be enhanced to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. Furthermore, Chair there is a need for stimulation of existing initiatives and the choice of appropriate instrument such as voluntary, regulatory or fiscal to enhance sustainable consumption and production patterns. Stronger policy alignment is required to maximize the use of funds, capacity and tools towards SCP implementation.

In conclusion Chair, South Africa would like to join the call by other member states in moving towards consumption and production patterns that promotes sustainable development.

I thank you all for your attention.