



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Statement By

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**Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources
At the Ministerial Roundtable on "Strategies for
sustainable chemicals and waste Management"
During the eighteenth 18th session of the Commission on
Sustainable Development**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I have the honor to present Kenya's position on strategies for sustainable chemicals and waste management. We associate with the statements made by Tanzania on behalf of G77 and China.

There is an urgent need to intensify the fight against poverty and to drastically improve on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, related to sanitation and public health in the developing countries. Great benefits could be achieved through the provision of better

services for waste management and promotion of environmental education for effective and efficient waste management actions.

Most importantly, however, developing countries require:

- greater investment,
- additional financial resources,
- capacity-building,
- know-how and technology transfer in implementing the 3Rs (reducing, reuse, recycle) and,
- improvement in infrastructure.

All these will ensure a better quality of life for the population. Economic empowerment of the communities, through engagement in wastes recycling, needs to be implemented in order to eradicate poverty and thus reduce rural-urban migration in developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya believes that specific assistance is needed in developing countries, including Africa, to establish proper inventories of hazardous, radio-active wastes and degraded sites potentially affected by poor management of such wastes. This will form a basis for developing and implementing facilities to manage and clean up contaminated sites.

We are also deeply concerned about the dumping of potentially toxic electronic waste in developing countries. The expanding of illegal trade in hazardous waste from developed to developing countries, is increasing health risks to people and environment. Thus, the electronics companies need to increase their efforts to collect and responsibly treat e-waste.

Mr. Chairman,

We also urge the international community to support technological transfer and capacity in order to foster investments in best practices for environmentally sound management of

various waste streams in developing countries. The scale of investments needed for proper sanitation and environmentally sound management of wastes is beyond the capacity of developing countries. Kenya has an ongoing ***pilot Project of Nairobi River***, where the integrated solid waste management for the City is embedded. This Project will provide our Capital city with a modern sanitary landfill and transfer stations with collateral economic benefits to the communities arising from the 3Rs.

Mr. Chairman,

In regards to chemicals, we note that significant efforts are taking place at international levels that need to be coordinated and harmonized. Kenya acknowledges that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) constitutes an important global and national framework for strengthening capacity for sound chemicals management, and narrowing the capacity/technology gap between the developing and the developed countries.

We, in Kenya, support bilateral agreements including the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions and the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layer. However, ratification/domestication of these conventions and their full implementation remain as major challenges on chemicals and waste management. These measures, we believe, will be a good starting point in order to assist developing countries to:

- Manage toxic and hazardous chemicals, particularly pesticides;
- Strengthen national preparedness for chemical emergencies and occupational health and safety measures;
- Absorb best available technologies;
- Develop national policies and legislation on compensation for environmental damages; and finally
- Setting out legal requirements on chemical registration, evaluation, authorization and restriction.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we urge the international community to conclude the negotiations and ratification of a protocol on liability and compensation for damages under the Basel Convention.

These measures require availability of financial resources for developing, supporting, implementing and operationalizing management systems, especially in vulnerable developing countries and Small Island States.

Further, assistance is also required for sustained public awareness and cultural exchange programmes for integrated waste management.

THANK YOU