

SOUTH AFRICA
Intergovernmental Planning Meeting - CSD15 Theme: Means of Implementation
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Mr Chairman, South Africa fully supports and aligns with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of G77 and China.

Trade: A higher and sustained level of economic growth is necessary if developing countries are to make any significant progress in achieving the poverty reduction and sustainable development targets by 2015. Developing countries are making good progress in establishing sound development strategies and systems of governance. These efforts should be supported by increased, more effective, flexible and predictable aid flows on the one hand, and a concerted effort to progress further on the Doha trade round on the other. Increased trade is key to enhanced economic growth, industrial development and sustainable development, and thereby contributing to poverty eradication. The full implementation of the Doha Development Agenda is critical and we urge all partners to view development as the essential measure for defining success in the WTO negotiations.

Finance: South Africa expresses concern that the CSD is not fulfilling its role outlined in the GA resolution 47/191, in monitoring progress on the ODA target of 0,7% of GDP, in relation to the implementation of sustainable development. To realize the Monterrey Consensus, we need an accelerated and integrated global effort through Overseas Development Assistance and the creation of an environment conducive for investment. This would include creation of enabling policy frameworks to enhance access to finance, including the reform of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). A key issue in this respect is enhancing access to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through reform of its Resource Allocation Framework (RAF). In addition, a mechanism is needed to facilitate debate on gaps in international financing for sustainable development.

Technology: A common thread that cuts across all the thematic issues is the need for coherent multilateral action and strategy on technology transfer. This should be underpinned by action to remove barriers to the adoption of sustainable development technologies. The challenge of costly and restrictive intellectual property rights needs to be addressed, through the establishment of a Multilateral Technology Fund. Support is needed for research and development in new technologies, and innovative financing options are needed for the piloting and implementation of large-scale advanced technology in developing countries. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building is a key mechanism for promoting cooperation on technology transfer, but in the absence of financial support, it remains an empty shell.

Institutional arrangements for sustainable development is a cross-cutting issue that must receive the necessary attention. The Commission on Sustainable Development must remain relevant in a reformed United Nations, as the global platform to review progress in the implementation of the JPOI and the CSD 11 programme of work.

Africa: At the WSSD, the international community committed itself to support Africa's sustainable development challenges and needs, and prioritized several actions relevant to the CSD-15 themes. Since 2002 African countries, operating at the ministerial level, have adopted several programmes and actions targeted at regional implementation. These include Africa's Consolidated Plan of Action on Science and Technology, the African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Ministerial Action Plan on Hydropower Development for Africa, the Common Vision and Strategic Framework for a Continental Policy adopted at the First African Union Commission Conference of Ministers Responsible for Electricity, the outcome of the first African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for Hydrocarbons, and The Algiers Declaration and Plan of Action on the Contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development. South Africa calls upon CSD-15 to recognise Africa's regional efforts to implement sustainable development and furthermore calls upon Africa's development partners to provide financial and technical assistance and resources to support the implementation of Africa's agreed programmes of action.

Partnerships: South Africa recognizes the important contribution made by partnerships to multilateral effort. We note with concern that there has been a reduction in the total number of type II partnerships and call for an enhanced system of monitoring and evaluating the contribution and impact of partnerships towards achieving the JPOI targets.