

Statement by Dr. Iván Orellana, International Affairs Director of the
Ministry of Popular Power for Energy and Petroleum and Governor for
Venezuela to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 15th Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development

Energy for Sustainable Development

New York, 27 February 2007

Mister Chairman,

As it is the first time that the Delegation of Venezuela takes the floor in this Forum, at the outset, allow me to congratulate His Excellency Al – Alattiya, Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, on his designation as Chairman of this Forum. Likewise, I would like to express that our Delegation associates itself with the Statement made by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mister Chairman,

Access to energy should, in one way or another, give room to States sovereignty, in relation to the right to preserve their natural and exhaustible resources, such as petroleum and natural gas. Also, it should allow to set up production rates as to ensure the national exploitation of these resources, not only to better preserve them but from the perspective of guaranteeing a fair and reasonable price as to promote development of clean technologies and environmentally friendly to fossil energy, and at the same time, promoting the implementation of new policies to address the rational use of these resources.

It would be interesting to make clear that what has been perceived as high energy cost is not only originated as our right to assure reasonable and fair prices for natural, exhaustible and non – renewable resources, but also it is due to external factors on energy markets, namely, unilateral international policies implemented by some countries in order to access, without any restriction, energy natural resources in producing countries. In this context, these prices are related to the costs of technological development and financing associated to the exploitation of these resources.

We are certain that fair and reasonable energy prices could have, and in fact it has, a significant impact on energy bills in developing countries, which lack of such kinds of resources. Thus, in Venezuela, we feel the moral duty and solidarity to alleviate the weight, not only through our involvement in initiatives as we have already done with the OPEC Fund, but in a more aggressive and practical manner by the implementation of Shared Solidarity policies, Complementarity and support in the reduction of social asymmetries, especially those aiming at contributing to poverty reduction. In solidarity with other countries and by means of financial, payment and collaboration schemes, Venezuela have been implementing, renowned

projects such as: PETROCARIBE, PETROSUR, PETROANDINA, PETROAMERICA, Caracas Energy Cooperation Agreement, and San José, among others, as a means to promote regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These programs seek and have successfully achieved reduction on the speculative intermediation on energy price chain and reduction of costs in transactions by means of direct negotiations among States. This scheme is coupled with energy coordination policies which generate endogenous and sustainable development for people, benefiting among others, diversification of supply sources and primary energy.

Finally, not only we have been successfully implementing those policies in America but we are now opening these possibilities to other regions of the planet, especially Africa, a region to which the world owes a great debt.

Mister Chairman, Venezuela firmly believes that sustainable development should give an opportunity to complementarity and solidarity, and it is our aspiration that it would be included in the outcome document. Mister Chairman, a Sustainable development supported and based only on competitiveness mechanisms that stimulate individuality, could see the implementation of a fundamentalist market doctrine condemn to fail, if elements of complementarity and solidarity are not incorporated. This is why we should consider its disastrous consequences for all humanity.

Thank you, Mister Chairman