

STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

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DEVELOPMENT ON AGENDA ITEM
“ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

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Madam Chair,

From the outset allow me to align my statement with that made by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 machinery. Let me begin by saying that the Chair's text is a good first attempt to capture our discussion during IPM. However the documents requires sharpening and includes some critical points raised. Zimbabwe believes that access to modern sources of energy for both domestic and industrial development in both rural and urban areas in Africa is a pre-requisite to poverty eradication and sustainable development. To facilitate this access the energy should be affordable, socially and environmentally acceptable.

Madam Chair,

Many developing countries such as Zimbabwe have the bulk of their populations without access to modern energy sources and rely on biomass fuel which, to a large extent causes health problems particularly to women and children. The text also needs reference to the need to improve access of women to modern energy sources for both domestic and industrial use.

It is therefore essential that CSD 15 comes up with specific actions to ensure that modern sources of energy are made available to developing countries through increased investment in the energy sector. Yesterday, from the presentations from the regional institutions it was clear that Africa requires a lot of investment in the energy sector if the continent has to achieve industrial development and eradicate poverty.

Renewable energy, including bio-fuels have a potential to improve availability of energy to poor countries. This requires investment in R & D, capacity building and technology transfer. It is also critical to leave all energy options open and not to foreclose any.

Madam Chair,

Energy efficiency provides a win win solution to sustainable development. Under the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, it is essential that new and additional financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building be provided to developing countries to enable them to improve energy efficiency and hence decoupling economic development and environmental protection.

It is our hope that the document that we will come up with will have specific actions with specific targets and timelines. It is also important that specific responsibility is allocated for each action which will be subject to review at a specific agreed period.

Let me conclude by saying that Zimbabwe is prepared to work with all delegations in coming up with a living document that will have a lasting impact of future sustainable industrial development for poverty eradication.

I thank you.

