

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe welcomes the Chair's text as a first attempt to capture our discussions during IPM in February. I wish to associate my statement with that made by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing mankind today and has the potential to undermine efforts towards achieving sustainable development if not seriously addressed.

While specific actions to address climate change should be taken in the context of the UNFCCC, CSD can provide both policy and political guidance towards addressing sustainable development challenges linked to climate change as well as provide for monitoring and review.

Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change and has the least capacity to adapt to the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Mr. Chairman,

The need for additional financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building for adaptation for Africa requires special attention in the chair's text. This should include support for early warning capacity and establishment and/or strengthening of systematic observation systems.

Mitigation is essential to address future climate change and CSD should ensure that developed countries take the lead in reducing their emissions of GHG in accordance with the Kyoto protocol and on the basis of Principle 7 of the Rio declaration on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. Mitigation should be given urgent priority.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns have an important bearing on climate change and sustainable development. As long as 20% of the world population uses 80% of the energy sustainable development will remain elusive for the 80% of the world population. The document should urgently address this important issue and ensure that countries pursue sustainable production and consumption. Energy distribution becomes a critical issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by calling on CSD to ensure that actions to address climate change are sustainable and linked to all relevant thematic areas of CSD in particular, energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution and Atmosphere and Agriculture.

I thank you.