



STATEMENT DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MS SUHAYFA EBRAHIM ZIA, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, REACTING TO THE CHAIR'S SUMMARY AT THE 14TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (New York, 12 May 2006)

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I thank the Chair, Bureau and Secretariat, for their efforts in putting together the Summary.

The Chair's Summary will be addressed in two parts:

Part one

Since the beginning of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Group of 77 and China has raised its concerns in its opening statement, reactions to the drafts of the Summary, and in the high-level segment. It is quite obvious from a careful reading that the concerns of the Group of 77 and China, a grouping of 132 countries, have hardly been taken into account.

The Millennium Development Goals have only been mentioned explicitly a few times and not a single time has the responsibility of the developed world towards their fulfillment been mentioned in the "continuing challenges" and neither has it included the call for developed countries to live up to their commitments. The emphasis on development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is included only with reference to achievements by developing countries. This takes away from the partnership for development endorsed by the Summit last September. Our continuing challenge remains for our development partners to honour commitments towards achieving these goals. This has to be mentioned in the Chair's Summary, in order for it to be a true reflection of the discussions. This imbalance in the text must be addressed.

Let me remind this gathering that the CSD is the key intergovernmental body to address sustainable development and the integrated treatment of the three pillars of sustainable development. The contrast of references to MDGs and development goals as opposed to the use of the word "private sector, private investment, commercial funding" in the text, raises many eyebrows. The multiple emphases on privatisation in the text - including in the "continuing challenges" - is but one indication of what is a wholesale misrepresentation of the actual continuing challenges for the developing world. This is tantamount to an erosion of the intergovernmental process hence the need to maintain the integrity of CSD11 decisions.

Whereas sustainable development goals are to eradicate poverty, the emphasis on privatisation exposes the developing world to even more poverty. It is common cause that business is driven by profits and not the common good and a better world for all.

The United Nations and the intergovernmental process is our only hope for equity and justice in the international arena. This is now at risk.

Issues that are closest to us - especially the means of implementation, ODA, and the call on development partners to honour their commitments on all fronts. In terms of transfer of technology not just support for south-south cooperation but more importantly north-south cooperation is required, particularly clean energy technologies both renewables and fossil fuel and capacity building - have only been given a passing reference.

We have noted the mention of issues around system-wide coherence; have also been mentioned in the "continuing challenges". We wish to remind the CSD that the issue of system-wide coherence remains debatable and we should await the Secretary General's report on this matter later in the year.

We are concerned that issues on governance, legislation, monitoring and enforcement have also been given importance in "continuing challenges".

We are disappointed with the lack of focus on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for SIDS as well as addressing the special needs of LDCs, LLDCs and Africa in the summary.

The Summary - especially the "continuing challenges" and "next steps"- in effect has the potential of undermining multilateralism in favour of unbridled corporatism and privatisation.

Part two: High Level Segment
Changes to Para 6, 9, 36(e), and 36(n) are suggested.

Paragraph 6:

The Group of 77 and China requests that this paragraph be given clarity in accordance with the themes and the letter sent to the Chair, that the CSD-11 decisions be adhered to, particularly the integrated treatment taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Paragraph 9:

Replace "on the poor" with "in developing countries".

Paragraph 36(e):

This paragraph should also include financing for development.

Paragraph 36(n):

This paragraph should read "promoting good governance at national and international levels and creating an enabling environment for investment by removing trade barriers, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, to industrial and agricultural products of interest to developing countries."

Once again, the Group would like to urge that the Summary be written in a consistent style so as to differentiate fact from opinion.

I thank you.