

STATEMENT BY MR KHOMOATSANA TAU MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AT THE CSD 13 ON 12 APRIL, 2005 UNDER THEME OF WATER - IWRM

My Delegation aligns itself with the statement by Jamaica on behalf of G77 and China.

My Delegation congratulates the chair for an excellent summary the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting.

We feel that there is however one other area that is quite important in the African context, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, that does not come out of the Chairpersons report, and that is the issue of HIV and AIDS. It continues to devastate the very productive section of our people and affects the effective implementation of water programmes. We feel that tools for integrating HIV and AIDS into resource management, particularly on Environmental Impact Assessment of programmes should be developed. This, we hope will go a long way in ensuring that Sector programmes and activities are sustainable and that they do not contribute to an accelerated transmission.

We further wish to emphasise the importance of rain water harvesting in the African context where rainfall varies quite considerably both in space and time. It does rain Chair, at the backyards of the poorest of the poor, they can have water on site provided they are capacitated technically and financially.

I thank you Chair.