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STATEMENT
by
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Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to be able to address you on behalf of Serbia and Montenegro.

After the good results achieved in the course of the preparations for the 13th Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development and, I believe, the conclusions whose implementation will help improve the situation in area of water, sanitation and human settlements, we are still faced with a task of working actively on their implementation. Regardless the differences among us not only in terms of our economic, professional and technical capacities but also in terms of cultural background and the degree of degradation of environment, I am sure that all of us agree that awareness and commitment to protect basic living conditions will help overcome these differences and mobilize our efforts to create the conditions for sustainable development and life worth of living for our posterity.

In Serbia and Montenegro, defining policies in the field of water, sanitation and human settlements lies exclusively within the competences of the member states. In line with the plan adopted at the Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, the governments of Serbia and Montenegro have established their respective councils for sustainable development. Serbia and Montenegro is strongly committed to the goals and plans set forth in the Millennium Declaration. In that connection, both republics have adopted a series of strategic documents.

The Republic of Serbia has adopted national strategic documents related to waste management, employment, action plan for children, action plan for the Roma population and development of agriculture, whereas the drafting of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development is under way as well as strategic documents for housing policies, housing and

permanent integration of refugees in Serbia, local sustainable development and other documents and laws.

With the support of the UN and other organizations and institutions, Serbia and Montenegro has worked out its own strategies for poverty reduction.

I would like to remind you that Montenegro adopted its Declaration on Ecological State in 1991. That is why it devotes particular attention and invests efforts in programs related to environmental protection despite numerous problems that it faces. Strategic plans for management of solid and liquid waste disposal have been elaborated and the master plan for water supply and Spatial plan for the Republic is to be adopted soon. Recently, the Action Plan for Housing Policy has been reviewed for the adoption. It is the first strategic document that will contribute to solving the problems of certain target groups: socially vulnerable groups, refugees and displaced persons, the Roma and young people.

Serbia and Montenegro will soon have to address a more difficult task: the implementation of these programs. Both republics need solid assistance, not only financial but also technical as well as expertise and support. I am confident that our successful record of cooperation with international organizations will be maintained and even expanded, since it is the interest of all. Serbia and Montenegro is open for all models of cooperation, particularly trans-boundary because the very questions and conclusions of the 13th Commission for Sustainable Development can represent a significant incentive for further strengthening of mutual relationships and cooperation with neighbors but also with all EU countries and the world.

Thank you for your attention.