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CSD 12

High Level Segment, 28th April, 2004, 11.30 – 1.00

Meeting Targets, Goals and Timetables - Key Elements for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU would like to thank you for your summary of last week's proceedings and for your personal commitment to making this first review session a truly open and interactive process.

The EU would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on overall progress on the implementation of Sustainable Development commitments. We believe that it reflects very well on overall progress on the implementation of commitments and also identifies constraints in the process of this implementation. We warmly appreciate the Secretary General's participation here this morning. This is the first time that any Secretary General has attended a meeting of this functional commission and is a clear signal of Mr. Annan's personal commitment to the success of this process.

In addition, the presence here of some 80 Ministers shows a very high level of political commitment to CSD.

CSD 12 has facilitated a review of implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration, among which is MDG 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability, and of the commitments in the JPOI.

The measure of success of this session will be our ability clearly and accurately to identify the obstacles, constraints and challenges for implementation of these commitments and goals. This is critical to the success of next year's policy session.

During the past year, the EU has been engaged in an intensive review of progress at the regional level and we have identified a number of major constraints and challenges. At the global level, among the main constraints/obstacles to implementation are finance, good governance, capacity building and technology transfer.

Financing of sustainable developments under all three themes requires a combination of public and private, fiscal and financial measures and investment to bring about public/private partnerships as well as public/public partnerships.

In order to bring about the climate for these changes, the establishment of the necessary responsible institutions and legislation is vital. Key elements are good governance, capacity building, including enforcement capacity, and technology transfer, particularly at local and regional level. Another factor is the involvement of all other stakeholders, including local authorities, the private and business sector, as well as that of all sectors of civil society, in particular women.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU has identified a number of challenges and priority issues in relation to water, sanitation, human settlements and the various cross-cutting issues which should be addressed during CSD 12 and 13 and are set out in our brochure on EU priority issues, which we launched last week here at the UN. These include:

- The development of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency Plans by 2005, based on the ecosystem approach.
- Prioritisation of water, sanitation and human settlement issues in National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and PRSPs.
- The importance of all countries having these NSDS or PRSPs in place by 2005.

- The need to maintain momentum on the 10-year framework of programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- The gender equality dimension should permeate all stages of the CSD process, particularly in relation to the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements.
- The importance of education in promoting an understanding of the interlinkages between these three themes, within the framework of sustainable development.

The issue of the most appropriate route for monitoring and reporting progress to the CSD and other relevant bodies needs to be addressed. Provision should be made adequately to resource this process.

We believe that there is a need for more active follow-up by the UN system to the water and sanitation targets and goals in cooperation with relevant organisations that are already involved.

Meeting the targets for water and sanitation involves a process which will take us to 2015. We must confirm the roadmap from CSD 12 to CSD 13 and the Major Event in 2005, and identify the major milestones and responsibilities from CSD 13 to 2015. We trust that Part 2 of the Chair's summary will make a significant advance in this regard. Meeting the goal for environmental sustainability as well as the broader MDGs requires a sharper, stronger focus on sanitation in particular.

Ultimately, the economic and social cost of not investing in IWRM, water, sanitation and human settlements, needs to be articulated in a manner understandable by ministers of finance and planning. The cost of not investing is much greater than investing.

Thank you.