

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

STATEMENT ON

***MEETING BASIC NEEDS IN  
WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS***

**ON SANITATION**

By

Hon. Martha W. Karua, MP  
Minister for Water Resources Management & Development

New York - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004

**Mr. Chairman,**

Halving the proportion of people without access to adequate sanitation by 2015, is one of the commitments, which we agreed to realize at Johannesburg. However, going with the Secretary-General's reports, many countries are not on track towards achieving this target, which is an issue of concern to many. Over the years, the sector has received little attention and minimum financial resources, despite its importance. As such, the sector has been characterized by: -

- i) Low coverage in both urban and rural areas resulting in a high-level prevalence of preventable and communicable diseases; and
- ii) Lack of awareness of the linkages between diseases, poor sanitation and hygiene.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Inadequate levels of funding and investment in sanitation are major constraints toward meeting the set goal and target. In this regard, considerable investment is required to expand and sustain sanitation and hygiene services. Financing sanitation requires the participation of all stakeholders. The investment should be directed towards awareness creation, behavioral change and tangible investment programmes.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Schools offer key entry points for promoting hygiene. Needless to add that women as the primary educators should also be involved in the design, planning and implementation of sanitation systems. Women and girls are the most affected by poor sanitation. They play a crucial role in fostering good hygiene practices; in awareness raising especially among children; and breaking the link between sanitation and disease.

Appropriate technology is an important aspect for promoting sanitation. Low cost technologies that take on board locally based interventions should be promoted. Use of new and innovative sanitation facilities, which are affordable and easily available locally should be encouraged. Deliberate efforts should be made by all to ensure that adequate resources are available to promote showcases of appropriate technologies.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Government of Kenya lauds the support of: Water and Sanitation Programme for Africa, WHO and UNICEF, and invites further support for sanitation programmes.

Kenya has: -

- i) Developed and is currently implementing a national tool on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation;
- ii) Initiated school sanitation and hygiene programmes to compliment the government's free and compulsory education; and
- iii) Piloting Ecological Sanitation in two selected districts.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, let me say that we have to do much more than we are currently doing in order to meet the sanitation targets. I offer three directions to which focused attention may follow: -

- a) We need to consider the various options and innovative ways including macro and micro financing, cross-subsidy and establishment of revolving and trust funds among others;
- b) Support to the private sector to develop and market environmentally sound and socially accepted technologies need to be considered; and
- c) Community involvement should be encouraged especially in the promotion of household and community sanitation programmes.

**Thank you.**