

**The Republic of Turkey
Ministry of Environment
and Forestry**



STATEMENT

by

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of
the Republic of Turkey**

**At the Twelfth Session of the UN Commission on
Sustainable Development**

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MR. CHAIRMAN,
EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN MY STATEMENT EXPRESSING MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ADDRESS SUCH A DISTINGUISHED AUDIANCE ON THE OCCASION OF CSD 12 MEETING AT WHICH WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ISSUES ARE BEING DISCUSSED.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY STORAGE SYSTEMS ARE INDISPENSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DAMS, OTHER WATER STORAGE FACILITIES AND IRRIGATION NETWORKS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE ESPECIALLY IN ARID AND SEMI ARID REGIONS. MULTI-PURPOSE WATER INFRASTRUCTURES IN MANY COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FULFILLING A VITAL ROLE IN PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER FOR SANITATION AND AGRICULTURE.

IN RECENT DECADES TURKEY HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESSES IN WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR IRRIGATION, POWER GENERATION, FLOOD CONTROL, AND OTHER PURPOSES. THE CREATION OF DAMS AND RESERVOIRS HAS ENABLED TURKEY TO SAVE THE WATER FROM ITS BRIEF SEASONS OF RAINFALL TO USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR DRINKING, SANITATION, FOOD AND ENERGY.

TURKEY, LIKE MANY COUNTRIES TODAY, FACES CHALLENGES IN EFFICIENTLY DEVELOPING AND MANAGING ITS WATER RESOURCES WHILE WORKING TO MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. IN ADDITION TO THESE CHALLENGES, TURKEY WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ITS WATER RESOURCES FOR ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS GROWING AND MODERNIZING POPULATION. WE BELIEVE THAT, INFRASTRUCTURES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND WATER FOR SANITATION ARE CRUCIAL FOR SATISFYING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AND FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY.

TURKEY GIVES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO REACH THE TARGETS AGREED IN THE JOHANNESBURG IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WITH REGARDS TO ACCESS TO BASIC SANITATION SERVICES. WITH A RANGE OF INVESTMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PAST 15 YEARS, WE PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR 90 % OF OUR POPULATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT PROGRESS REGARDING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. TURKEY IS MAKING ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE OUTCOMES OF THE 1996 HABITAT AGENDA AND *THE ISTANBUL DECLARATION* IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN, WE AIM TO TRANSFORM SLUM DWELLERS TO CLEAN AND SANITARY URBAN AREAS BY CONSTRUCTING ABOUT 100.000 RESIDENCES IN MANY LARGE CITIES OF TURKEY.

ANOTHER INITIATIVE IS THE AGRO-VILLAGE IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT THROUGH WHICH WE WILL BE REDUCING IMMIGRATION TO URBAN AREAS BY PROVIDING A SANITARY AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IN RURAL AREAS. WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT, WE WILL BE PROVIDING AS MUCH AS 7.000 FAMILIES WITH CLEAN AND SANITARY RESIDENCES. FURTHERMORE, WE WILL BE CONSTRUCTING 100.000 RESIDENCES FOR THE URBAN POOR.

MR CHAIRMAN,
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,

TO CONCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT, WE PLACE EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO PROVIDING ADEQUATE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND WATER FOR DOMESTIC USE FOR OUR GROWING POPULATION IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS SO AS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE. MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IN THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO ATTAIN THE GOALS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THUS, WE BELIEVE THAT NATIONAL EFFORTS WILL NOT SUFFICE WITHOUT COORDINATED ACTION AT THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS. FOR THIS REASON, I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR DEVELOPING AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN