

Statement by the Honourable Mr Akwasi Opong-Fosu Member of Parliament and Minister of Environment Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana at the COP20/CMP 10 in Lima, Peru

President of COP

Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

Chairs of SBSTA, SBI, G77 and China, Africa Group and other bodies of the Convention

Ministers and Heads of Delegations

Other National Delegates

The Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I congratulate you as President of this Conference and I thank the Government and people of Peru for the warm hospitality that my delegation and I have enjoyed since arriving in this your beautiful country. I also thank the Secretariat for all preparatory work for this Conference.

Mr. President, Scientific evidence has now overwhelmingly proved that climate change presents very serious global risks. The recent Fifth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate change (5th IPCC) has made it clearer that recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human activities and natural systems, and therefore demands urgent global response.

The global community has realized the seriousness of the threats that climate change poses to the survival of humanity and collective steps are being taken to address these threats and challenges of keeping global warming below the 2°C target.

This therefore calls for adequate and timely provision of resources in terms of finance, technology transfer and capacity building from the developed countries to effectively adapt to climate change impacts based on their historical responsibilities. Provision of these are inadequate or delayed.

Science has established that the African continent is warmer than it was 100 years ago and most of the warming occurred during the twentieth century.

Mr President, Ghana is experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change. Recurrent drought and flood events in parts of the country have led to loss of lives and property. Relief and rehabilitation efforts have become a major drain on Ghana's development efforts.

Potential threats and challenges include: shortage of water, food insecurity, challenges in generation of hydro-electricity, migration, health hazards, among others. Therefore the Government of Ghana has undertaken bold interventions to address climate change issues. Among them are the following:

1. In July this year the government launched Ghana Climate Change and Environment Policies which are helping to tackle climate change issues in a more holistic manner.
2. Ghana has developed her National Adaptation Strategy and Low- Carbon Emission Roadmap which are enched in the Climate Policy of Ghana.
3. On capacity building, Ghana sees it as useful in skills development and awareness creation, which are crucial for effective implementation of our newly launched climate change policy with its accompanying strategy and action Plan and we call on development partners to support us in this area.
4. On the issue of REDDplus, Ghana has made enormous strides in the implementation of its preparatory programme.

We have developed an ambitious sub-national emission reduction programme known as Ghana Cocoa Forest Landscape REDD+ Emission Reduction Programme covering 5.9m ha cocoa-forests mosaic landscape in the southern half of the country which is expected to begin in 2016 and end in 2036. Under this programme, and with the right support and incentives, Ghana expects to generate about 598.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents in emission reductions, under this programme.

This programme can be scaled up if additional investments and incentives are provided. We believe that the Ghana Cocoa Forest Landscape REDD+ Emission Reduction Programme, if adequately resourced would form a major part of Ghana's contribution to the global efforts to close the ambition gap before and after 2020.

Mr. President, our expectations of the negotiations within the Africa Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) are the following:

- Set clear, transparent and balanced conclusions towards pre-2020 and 2015 agreement
- Encourage further discussions on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), which should not only be centered on mitigation, but should also include adaptation, capacity building, finance, technology transfer and means of implementation.
- Call on developed countries to seriously consider the ratification of the Second Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol;
- Consider long-term finance as effective mechanism for adaptations and mitigation actions;
- There should be timely and adequate mobilisation of financial resources as a means of capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund for implementation in 2015;
- Ensure concrete actions for technology development and to strengthen a system to coordinate technology transfer;
- Encourage implementation of climate change learning and skills development in Africa, which is crucial in order for effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions,
- Operationalize the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change from extreme and slow onset events.
- Accelerate progress on negotiations on women and climate change as women have been severely affected by climate change in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr President, in conclusion developing countries, which have less emission profiles, experience high magnitudes of climate change impacts because of our high levels of vulnerability. Annex 1 countries are therefore enjoined to take up the leadership role taking cognisance of the principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities as enshrined in the Convention.

Thank You for your Attention