



Party - Republic of Ghana

*Statement by Hon. Mahama Ayariga, Minister
of Environment, Science, Technology and
Innovation*

During the High-level segment of the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC and the 11th Session of the Conference of Parties serving at Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Paris, France 2015

President of COP 21
UNFCCC Executive Secretary
Ministers and Heads of Delegations
Distinguished National Delegates
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Ghana wishes to thank the French government for hosting this year's COP 21. We join the rest of the world in standing with the people of France as you strive to overcome the horrors that have been unleashed on your beautiful country by forces of terror.
2. Even in this trying time, the French government and people have continued to welcome us in a spirit of true courage and love. We truly appreciate this gesture.
3. Mr. President, the challenges and threat of climate change is no longer a subject of debate. The science is unquestioned; the impact is telling on our lives now and pose a threat to the future we want.
4. Ghana continues to suffer from the impact of climate change. The ravages that affected the city of Accra and other parts of Ghana from the recent floods on 3rd

June this year, are a vivid reminder of the gravity of the threats climate change pose to Ghana.

5. Mr. President, this COP is a “big step” and another golden opportunity for us to secure a livable world for our youth and generations to come. The duty is not only a moral one, but also one that we owe to future generations. We cannot afford to fail by not acting decisively today, here and now.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, Ghana would therefore wish to reiterate its position that the UNFCCC is capable of producing “an ambitious and balanced multilateral agreement” here in Paris. We are in solidarity with the Position of Africa and G77+ China in calling for

7. A global climate deal that :

- Is truly respects the right of nations to pursue sustainable development;
- Is fair and provides equal opportunity for all and at the same time;
- keeps us on track to achieve the 2 degree temperature goal.

8. Towards the agreement that we seek to achieve we call for equal treatment of the issues that threaten the foundation of our economies and the social wellbeing of our people. These issues as we all know are finance, adaptation, loss and damage, technology development and transfer, mitigation and above all gender and youth.

9. Mr. President, on the issue of REDDplus, we have developed an ambitious emission reduction programme covering an area of 5.9m ha cocoa-forests mosaic landscape in the southern half of the country. This programme is expected to begin in 2016 and end in 2036. With adequate support and investment, Ghana expects to generate about 598.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents in emission reductions, over the life of the programme.

10. This REDDplus programme can be scaled up if additional investment and incentives can be provided. The success and sustainability of this programme however, hinges largely on the associated non-carbon benefits from the implementation of this programme. Cocoa is Ghana's main export commodity. The livelihoods of over half a million farmers are tied to this important crop. Aside from the mitigation benefits of implementing REDDplus, the programme is

expected to increase yield per hectare. This should lead to a corresponding increase in the profits of the farmers, export revenue to the country and sustainable supply for the chocolate industry. It is these non-carbon benefits that would make the implementation of REDD+ sustainable in the long-term. Ghana wishes to associate itself with the African Group call for the Paris Agreement to send a strong signal about the importance of REDD+ and the associated non-carbon benefits

11. Mr. President, Ghana reaffirms its resolve to support global efforts to define a common future that seeks to safeguard the collective interest of all nations.

12. In this regard, Ghana has put forward an INDC which contains 31 mitigation and adaptation actions. The inclusion of both mitigation and adaptation in the INDC, resonates with Ghana's Medium Term Development Agenda and our anticipated 40-year socio-economic transformational plan; Also of importance to us are the universal Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Of particular of interest to this COP is our unconditional commitment to lower GHG emissions by 15% compared to the business as usual emission by 2030. In the 10-year period, Ghana needs USD 22.6 billion in investments from domestic, international, public and private sources to finance these actions. USD 6.3 billion is expected to be mobilized from domestic sources whereas the USD 16.3 billion will come from international support.

14. Mr. President, Ghana is already committed to mobilising USD 7.2billion commercial facility to support the further development of its gas infrastructure.

15. This investment will not only make clean and cheap natural gas available to the country but also help cut down on GHG emissions in the electricity sector. Furthermore, we are keen to mobilise additional financing to support investments in REDD+ and the Great Green Wall.

16. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by urging us all to be mindful of the key elements in our deliberations here on this multilateral platform, namely:

- A multilateral climate agreement that is forward-looking and result-oriented; and
- Strong leadership and drive to achieve a balanced multilateral climate agreement;

17. In so doing, together we can explore common grounds and above all “seek to build mutual trust” as equal partners in spite of our unequal capabilities.

18. I wish as all fruitful negotiations.

God bless us all.

Thank you