

# ***Party - Republic of Ghana***

## ***Statement by Hon. Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation***

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*During the High-level segment of the 19th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9th session of the Conference of Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol*

***Warsaw, Poland 2013***

***The Co-chairs of the “high level segment meeting of COP 19***

*Mr President of the COP 19”*

*Your Excellences*

*Representatives of “Parties to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol”*

*Distinguished Delegates*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. Good afternoon. On behalf of the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, the Government and the People of Ghana, I am pleased to address this high-level segment of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Mr. President, Ghana wishes to thank the government and people of Poland for hosting the COP and the warm hospitality given us. We wish to also join the international community to extend our condolences to the government and people of Philippines in this trying moments.
3. Mr. President, this COP is an important step towards securing the future of generations yet to come. This duty is not only a moral one, but also a privilege duty we owe to the future generation and cannot afford to fail by not acting decisively today, here and now!

4. Ladies and gentlemen, the Ghanaian delegation reaffirms its position that the UNFCCC platform is capable of attaining “ambitious, balanced, legally binding multilateral agreement” by 2015 that will truly reflect the unique circumstances of countries and their respective capabilities.
5. In this respect, not only does Ghana shares the positions of the African Group and G-77+China. We also associate ourselves with the fundamental principles of the UNFCCC in advancing the building blocks of the 2015 agreement without leaving out the importance of the “means of implementation” such as finance, technology transfer and capacity building.
6. Mr. President we wish bring to the attention of the COP the need to reflect on the experiences and lessons we have gained through the implementation of some of the mechanisms under protocol and convention such as the CDM, adaptation fund and the fast-start financing to inform the negotiations.
7. On REDD Plus, an outcome that is fair and beneficial to Ghana and our colleagues in Africa is one that balances methodological requirements with the means to implement them; and for that reason, suitable governance arrangement to coordinate international finance is the key that would unlock progress in result-based REDD plus actions.

8. Mr. President, we call for equal treatments of the real issues which threaten the foundation of our economies and the social wellbeing of our people. Issues such as adaptation, loss and damage and above all, gender are at the very core of what we call for concrete actions in this COP.

9. Ladies and gentlemen, non-annex one parties are already taking steps to address the negative impacts of climate change. Because of the indispensable risk and opportunities climate change poses to realizing the long-term development objectives of our country and we are tackling it head-on.

10. Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to share some major highlights of our efforts with you:

- Ghana has responded to the UN declaration for “Sustainable Energy for All by 2030” by preparing a national action plan on sustainable energy for 2030.
- Cabinet has approved Ghana’s National Climate Change Policy which serves as our flagship for addressing climate change in Ghana.
- In addition, Ghana has developed a national climate change adaptation strategy and modalities have been developed to ensure effective implementation of the strategy.

- As a continued effort to meet its obligation under the convention, Ghana is preparing its Third National Communication to the UNFCCC. I am also happy to report that Ghana has recently received official approval from the Global Environment Facility to commence its “initial biennial update report”.
- Ghana has enacted its Renewable Energy Act (Act 832) and its associated Feed-in-tariff scheme and Renewable Energy Fund.

11. Mr. President these are some of the policies and measures we are implementing at the national level to build resilience and equitable low carbon economy. We hope with additional support we can do more.

12. 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. We need:

- To be forward-looking and result-oriented
- Leadership and drive to achieve balance.
- To explore common grounds and above-all
- “Seek to build mutual trust”

I wish all fruitful discussions God bless us all.

Thank you