

R E P U B L I C   O F   G H A N A

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STATEMENT MADE BY HONOURABLE SAM PEE YALLEY,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
AT SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, JULY 17, 1996

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Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you and the members of your Bureau on your well deserved election and to assure you of our continued support and cooperation. My delegation also wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Swiss authorities for the warm welcome extended to us and the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of this Session. My delegation would furthermore commend the Secretariat for the quality of the documentation before us.

Mr. President, my delegation fully endorses the statement of the Group of 77 and China to this Conference.

There is now sufficient scientific evidence to suggest that human activities have altered the composition of the atmosphere with respect to greenhouse gases (GHGs) and their precursors. This phenomenon has invariably led to some of the major environmental problems of our time including ozone depletion, acid rain and global warming or climate change.

The First and Second Assessment Reports of the IPCC attest to the fact that the world's climate has undergone rapid change over the past century. Furthermore the projected changes in climate will have significant and often adverse consequences for many of the earth's ecological systems, as well as socio-economic repercussions for food supply, water resources and human health. In some developing countries, the anticipated deleterious impact is potentially irreversible. It is in view of this and our desire to contribute to the resolution of this global problem that the Government of Ghana

participated in the negotiations and later signed and ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change with its objective of stabilizing the atmospheric concentrations of GHGs at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. It is our conviction that such levels could be attained within a time-frame sufficient to allow the ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, and thus ensure sustainable development.

Although the Government of Ghana is yet to prepare its initial national communication, in line with our commitments under Article 4.1, and in fulfilment of Article 12.1, we have already prepared a preliminary inventory of GHGs and formulated a number of "no regrets" policies. We have also initiated projects aimed at reducing Ghana's net emissions of GHGs. These include projects in reforestation and afforestation, and fuel-switching and energy-efficiency projects in the private and public sectors.

The Government of Ghana has received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a project on renewable energy-based electricity for rural, social and economic development. The project seeks to support the development of a national capacity to use primarily renewable energy-based technology, especially photovoltaics, for sustainable rural electricity delivery. We are also undertaking a country study on climate change with the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands.

Mr. President, my delegation is fully aware of the painfully slow procedures for obtaining funds from the GEF for climate change enabling activities. As the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, the GEF and its implementing agencies must seek to provide expeditious and timely funding under Articles 4.3 and 12.5 for the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex 1 Parties in support of their efforts.

Mr. President, Ghana is deeply disturbed by attempts to frustrate moves by this Conference to cut the amount of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide emissions widely blamed for global warming. There seems to be a campaign designed to dissuade delegates to this Conference from taking the measures suggested by the IPCC and to stall or delay the Berlin Mandate.

Mr. President, this campaign contends that there would be serious economic losses suffered by countries whose economies depend on fossil fuel if greenhouse gas emissions were limited by the standards prescribed by the Convention. It is further argued that cuts in greenhouse gas emissions would bring a trade slump that would strike most countries. There is opposition, therefore, to agreement on uniform reduction targets for Annex 1 Parties.

Mr. President, Ghana appreciates fully the implications of these concerns, but also believes strongly in scientific data available to the Convention and calls on this Conference to examine critically which of the two propositions would best serve the long-term interest of humanity. It must begin to dawn on us that we have a unique opportunity to save our planet for our own good and that of posterity, and that no amount of economic wealth can purchase the planet earth.

What are we waiting for - more heat waves, typhoons, floods, drought and desertification, bush fires, epidemics or the submerging of all island and peninsular states, big and small - before we act? It is incumbent on all of us to take urgent steps to reduce CO2 emissions to the 1990 levels by the year 2000, and the time to act is NOW.

My delegation wishes to appeal to the developed countries to show strong and transparent leadership in meeting their commitments under Article 4.2 a & b of the Convention. In this respect, we would urge the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate to expedite the

negotiations for a legally binding instrument.

Finally, Mr. President, the decision of COP 1 to establish a pilot phase of Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ), was no doubt in recognition of its potential of contributing positively to the emission reduction objectives of the Convention, and as a means of capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound and proven technologies to developing countries. However, the lack of a comprehensive but simplified reporting format for Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) may lead to the creation of doubts and suspicion in the minds of some critics of AIJ. My delegation is of the view that a clear distinction should always be drawn between AIJ and Joint Implementation (JI). Furthermore, the AIJ should not become a substitute for Official Development Assistance nor must it be financed through the GEF.

In conclusion, Mr. President I wish to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Ghana to the objectives of the Convention and our readiness to co-operate fully with other states Parties in the realization of those objectives.

I thank you, Mr. President.

# RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: GHANA NAME OF SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: 12:45 NOTE-TAKER: \_\_\_\_\_ STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

## AGBM-RELATED ISSUES

The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments:
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <u>Projects on reforestation &amp; afforestation - Fuel-switching &amp; energy-efficiency projects. (private &amp; public sectors)</u>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by <u>2000</u> year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <u>1990 levels</u>	Comments:

## SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments:
Development and transfer of technology	Comments:
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <u>Recognizes IPCC as a scientific basis for action.</u>

## SBI-RELATED ISSUES

Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <u>Received funds for renewable energy based electricity - complaints about the procedures of GEF</u>
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments: <u>Need of reporting format - should not become a substitute for official development assistance nor financed by GEF.</u>
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments: <u>"expedition &amp; timely funding" is needed</u>	

OTHER COMMENTS: