



Party - Republic of Ghana

***Statement by Hon Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng,
Minister of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation
of the Republic of Ghana***

*During the High-level segment of the Twenty-Third session of
the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, the Thirteenth
session of the Conference of Parties serving as Meeting of the
Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and Meeting of the Parties to
the Paris Agreement,*

Bonn, Germany

The Chair of the “high level segment meeting of COP 23

Mr President of the “COP 23”

Excellences

Representatives of “Parties to the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement”

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and the People of Ghana, I am pleased to address the high-level segment of the twenty-third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Mr. President, we wish to congratulate the Republic of Fiji for becoming the first Small Island State presiding over a COP. Ghana also wishes to thank the government and people of Germany for supporting Fiji to host the COP in this magnificent facility here in Bonn, the home of Global Climate affairs.

Mr. President, this COP is an important milestone and another golden opportunity for us to secure the future we want for the generations yet to come.

Ghana reiterates its position that the UNFCCC process of negotiations is capable of that which truly respects the right of

nations to pursue sustainable development, while providing equal opportunity for all to contribute towards achieving the global temperature goal.

In this regard, Ghana associates herself with the common position of the African Group and G77 + China and calls for an all-inclusive negotiation of the Paris Agreement that will enhance the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President, we call for equal treatments of the real issues that threaten the foundation of our economies and the social wellbeing of our people, while protecting the earth.

In this view therefore, Ghana would like to see substantive progress in the negotiations on issues such as - finance, adaptation, loss and damage, mitigation and above all gender.

These are important to ensure that we implement our Nationally Determined Contributions. We call on developed country parties to ensure sustainable and predictable flows of finance.

Ghana is of the view that Middle Income Countries that pursue their socio-economic development with low carbon footprints should not be discriminated against through denial of access to grants.

We further wish to emphasize the need to address the pre-2020 emission gap and call on developed countries to find opportunities to close this gap.

Ghana like many developing nations, is already taking steps to address the negative impacts of climate change.

We have commenced pre-2020 activities and are mainstreaming our Nationally Determined Contributions in sector and local level plans and programmes.

Mr. President, as part of effort to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), over the past months the Government of Ghana has taken bold steps in protecting the environment of its people, particularly our water bodies, which have been polluted through illegal mining.

Our young farmers abandon farming because of drought and loss of farmlands and engage in illegal mining.

In the coming years we seek to continue promoting sustainable development for sound Environmental Governance and also intensify awareness creation, collaborations and partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

These are some of the policies and measures we are undertaking at the national level to build resilience and equitable low carbon economy. We hope with additional support will enhance our capacity to deliver on this laudable endeavour.

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 emphasize the need for strong partnership and call for strong leadership and drive to achieve a better climate future to facilitate the sustainable development we all cherish.

Together, we can explore common grounds and above all “seek to build mutual trust”.

I thank you for your attention