

**STATEMENT BY HON. SHERRY AYITTEY, MINISTER OF  
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, GHANA, AT THE  
COP 17/CMP7 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE  
CONFERENCE, 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER-9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011,  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**Your Excellency Madam Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, COP  
President and members of the Bureau,**

**Your Excellences Heads of Delegations and Colleague  
Ministers,**

**Distinguished representatives of States Parties, International  
Organizations, Civil Society and Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me commend the Government and people of South Africa for hosting this very important Conference on the soil of Africa and for the excellent facilities placed at our disposal since our arrival in this beautiful city of Durban.

In line with our common African position my delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of a fair, balanced and credible outcome in Durban.

**We wish, therefore, to associate ourselves with the positions  
of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, as  
elaborated in the various interventions in this conference.**

Ghana urges Parties to fulfill their pledges and commitments under the Copenhagen and Cancun Agreements and provide clear and unambiguous commitments on fast-start funding and of the climate Green fund.

Madam President, Ghana remains resolute in her call for a second commitment period, under the Kyoto Protocol. Durban must be decisive in avoiding a gap in the future of the Protocol and we sincerely hope that the Kyoto Protocol would not be terminated on African soil.

Discussions at this conference should provide a global roadmap that would define a second binding commitment period by Annex 1 state parties, taking into consideration our common desire to save our planet based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and the rule of law.

Madam President, adaptation remains the most prioritized and essential component of any Durban outcome.

We therefore call for the complete operationalization of the Cancun Agreements, including capitalization of the Green Climate Fund and identification of other long term financing sources, technology development and transfer and capacity building. Ghana would also like to see the establishment of the Adaptation Committee and clear guidelines on measurement, reporting and verification of NAMAs and REDD+.

Additionally, Durban must deliver on Climate Smart Agriculture and the mainstreaming of gender and climate change in national development plans.

In developing a policy for climate change, Ghana aimed at three broad objectives of effective adaptation, a low carbon growth path and social development. We seek to attain these objectives by refocusing on seven building blocks of governance and coordination, capacity building, finance, research and knowledge management, international cooperation, communication, monitoring and evaluation.

We have developed a Gender strategy which is being piloted in the northern part of our country where the women are the most vulnerable. Our climate change adaptation strategy is being finalized and the preparation of a Low carbon growth strategy is in progress.

Madam President, Ghana has initiated measures to internally track our carbon footprints and tackle climate change related challenges and we urge other countries to do same.

Ghana is experiencing varying intensities of climate change impacts, from recurrent floods and drought culminating in the

loss of several lives and property. Sectors of the Ghanaian economy under threat and critically challenged are: Water Resources, Tourism, Agriculture/ Cocoa Production, Fisheries, Forestry, Energy, Health, Waste management, infrastructure and marine conservation.

One key element of adaptation response in our strategy is the development a comprehensive early warning system that could facilitate timely dissemination of relevant information from community to national level and vice versa.

This would ensure that communities at all levels cope and adapt to disasters particularly flooding, droughts, desertification and other related impacts such as disease out breaks. The international community may therefore wish to finance national responses to disaster situations in developing countries.

The Ministries of Environment, Science and Technology, and Communication, and the Environmental Protection Agency are jointly implementing a programme aimed at integrating Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) into our efforts at addressing climate change and sustainable development challenges in Ghana. We recognize the role of ICT in monitoring climate events, and in mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts and as a tool to propel Ghana in her transition towards a green economy.

This initiative has attracted support from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and a private company, Vodafone .We therefore call for a more definitive role for ITU in UNFCCC activities.

Government has also endorsed the operationalization of the Ghana Cleaner Production Centre established by the Environmental Protection Agency in the industrial hub of the port city of Tema.

The Centre is to green the supply chain of production and consumption of locally manufactured products and services with emphasis on economic, environmental and social benefits through

improvement in efficiency of energy and water use, waste minimization at-source, recycling, recovery and reuse of resources to address historical and potential future environmental impacts of industrial development in Ghana.

Ghana has over the last decade promoted environmental management in industry with a regulatory compliance promotion tool aimed at facilitating the development of self-regulatory approaches by Ghanaian industries.

Madam President, Ghana is the only African member of a thirty Global Research Alliance, research group focused on GHG inventory and measurement in the Agricultural sector. We call on other African countries to join the Alliance.

There are lots of benefits, in the area of research, and improvement in the methodology for the preparation of national communications. On this note I wish to state that Ghana has submitted her second National Communication to the UNFCCC and is in the process of preparing the third National Communication in fulfillment of reporting obligations.

In 2009, a Presidential Initiative on National Tree Planting was launched by our president to re-afforest degraded areas, restore and rehabilitate green belts country wide, to help reduce the rate of deforestation and to enhance Ghana's carbon sink capacity.

Madam President, Ghana and South Africa are currently engaged in a bilateral agreement on Science, Research and Technology and Innovation transfer.

We are working together on Space Science and Technology Innovation on key thematic areas including

- A. Radio Astronomy, Satellite Communication and Research, High performance computing;
- B. Biotechnology and Climate Change
- C. Material Services and Nanotechnology and the application in health and water purification.

It remains our conviction that as an emerging oil and gas economy, our growth requires modernization, particularly in the agricultural sector. We recognize that the requirement in infrastructure will increase the demand for energy, which would most likely result in higher emissions.

On the other hand, there is persistent poverty in some areas of the country and among particular groups of people. In this regard, Ghana embraces the green economy as a development pathway to achieving sustainable development. Hence it is absolutely necessary to choose this development path to set the policy direction for generations to come.

Madam President, a lot of progress has been made since Copenhagen and Cancun, Durban must be the place to secure the fair, balance and credible outcome with global solutions that will save tomorrow, today, for all humanity.

**I thank you**