

**STATEMENT BY HON. LEE T. OCRAN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, GHANA AT THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP
6) OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, 13-24
NOVEMBER, THE HAGUE**

Mr. President and Members of the Bureau,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, I wish to extend my appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for hosting this important meeting and for the excellent arrangements that have been put in place to make this meeting successful.

Mr. President, this meeting is coming on at a time when we cannot in any way doubt the negative impacts of climate change on our respective countries and our sustainable development efforts. This means that we have to take action now in order to avoid the doomsday scenarios, which our scientists have been drawing our attention to.

We also need to be reminded that globalization has left poor countries vulnerable and that the impacts of climate change from industrial activities associated with globalization portray a rather bleak future for developing countries.

Mr. President, some of the critical issues that are of concern to us in these negotiations are:

- Technology transfer;
- Capacity building;
- Clean development mechanism;
- Implementation of Articles 4.8 and 4.9; and
- Education, training and awareness raising.

Mr. President, the Government of Ghana takes these issues of climate change very seriously. We have considered the impacts of climate change in our national development programmes and have undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure that the country achieves its developmental goals without excessive emissions of greenhouse gases.

We are implementing renewable energy pilot projects to explore the possibility of increasing the use of solar energy in the residential and commercial sectors. Presently 20% of the country's electricity is generated from a thermal plant and the Government is planning to substitute natural gas for the light crude oil that is used in this plant. We also see the potential for the development of mini hydro dams to supplement and meet the growing energy demand in the country.

Mr. President, to further implement the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular, Article 4.1, we call for the provision of adequate and timely financial and technical resources to further enhance our capacities to meet our obligations under the Convention. Equipment for systematic observation and coastal zone protection; assistance in research and development in our agriculture sector would be of tremendous help in our bid to adapt to climate change. Ghana would also need resources to develop and incorporate climate change related curriculum in our secondary and tertiary education.

Mr. President, the expectation is that enough Annex I countries would ratify the Protocol for it to be effective in the year 2002, when we will be celebrating ten years after the Rio Earth Summit. Let me use this opportunity to inform my colleagues that Ghana has initiated the necessary action for the ratification of the Protocol. Our cabinet has approved the ratification and it is hoped that our Parliament will provide the

necessary assent to make it possible for the Head of State to sign the instrument of ratification before the end of the year.

Mr. President, it is our hope that during our consultations for the rest of the week, Parties would be guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibility recognized in the Convention, to ensure that the needs of developing countries are adequately met.

I also hope that we will all cooperate to ensure that our days in The Hague are deemed to have been worthwhile.

The whole world is looking up to us here in this city and we cannot let them down. Let us take decisions to make the Hague the beginning of the process towards a low greenhouse gas emission world.

Thank you.