



Republic of Ghana

Statement on the occasion of the Vienna High-Level Symposium on “Accountable and Transparent Development Cooperation: Towards a More Inclusive Framework”, Vienna, 12-13 November 2009

The Government of Ghana would like to convey the expression of its highest consideration to the participants of the Vienna High-Level Symposium on Accountable and Transparent Development Cooperation. The ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum is a timely opportunity to discuss aid issues in a frank, open and inclusive environment.

Last year in September, over 100 partner countries, donor countries and development agencies met in Accra for the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to review the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. While some progress has been made, it became clear that much more needs to be done to achieve the Paris Declaration commitments. The Accra Agenda for Action calls for the accelerated implementation of the aid effectiveness principles that we have agreed on in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The broad participation at the Accra High Level Forum underscored the importance of this agenda and committed participating countries and institutions to tangible actions.

We are at a critical moment. We have passed the mid-point for implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the progress in their achievement is uneven. The Accra Agenda for Action was developed in recognition of the fact that development cooperation can play an important catalytic role in achieving sustainable development.

In order to plan and monitor development activities, it is imperative that partner countries have comprehensive information on external assistance flows into their countries. Aid thus needs to be delivered in a transparent manner to enable us to plan and monitor accordingly. The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), which was launched at the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and which Ghana has endorsed, is working to ensure that this happens.

It is important that we share our experiences in our drive to strengthen mutual accountability at the country level. In Ghana, we are in the process of developing a performance assessment framework (PAF) with which we hope to measure our development partners. We hope that this framework can help us all to make aid more effective, track progress and increase predictability. We are also encouraged by other countries that have used the Accra Agenda for Action to strengthen country-level dialogue mechanisms. It also serves as an inspiration for global initiatives tackling problems on delivery of aid.

The Government of Ghana wishes participants successful deliberations in Vienna. We hope that the discussions will take us further in our common efforts and actions to increase the effectiveness of aid for development. The Accra Agenda for Action can serve as a useful tool in this regard.