

# GHANA



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## STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER –COUNSELLOR

GHANA PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATION

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

OF THE 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

**Mr. Chair,**

Ghana congratulates you and the Bureau for your election to steer the affairs of this Committee during this 67th session of the General Assembly. We are confident that with your sterling qualities the committee will have very fruitful and successful deliberations at this session.

Ghana aligns itself with the statements delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G77 and China as well as by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.

**Mr. Chair,**

The recently concluded Rio+20 conference was successful because of the high number and level of participation as well as the announcement of several commitments valued at about 500 billion dollars by a wide range of actors including governments, civil society and multi-lateral institutions. Obtaining an agreed outcome document at Rio was a remarkable achievement for multilateralism since many United Nations conferences in recent times have failed to achieve any outcome.

A major flaw of the conference was a failure to commit to a land degradation neutral world, eliminate agricultural subsidies and to agree to the means for implementing the agreed actions. The success of the Rio+20 conference will be visible and complete if actions are taken to implement the agreed outcome. We call for expedited action on the follow up processes at the United Nations General Assembly, particularly the development of the sustainable development goals and the means for their implementation.

**Mr. Chair,**

The post 2015 development framework must focus on human development and the eradication of poverty. It must not be prescriptive but be simple and clear. The time frame for this agenda should be long enough to bring transformational changes and major developments to many countries. The implementation of the agenda will require commitments from all actors, including developed and developing countries, the United Nations System, civil society and private sector.

The MDGs remain an important development priority for Ghana. Ghana is on track to achieve MDGs targets on extreme poverty, gender parity at primary and junior high schools, universal primary education and safe drinking water. We are however off track with regards to infant and child mortality, maternal health and environmental sustainability. We cannot achieve all the MDGs before 2015 and therefore expect the MDGs to be extended and be part of the post-2015 development agenda. The MDGs could be reformulated after 2015 to address the many criticisms they have attracted, benefit from the lessons learnt in their implementation as well as incorporate other development areas and new challenges that the current MDGs neglect, such as trade, economic growth, employment creation, infrastructure development and adaptation to climate change. For the MDGs or any development frame work to benefit the poor, the international community should urgently invest in the resources of the poor, which is land. A global commitment to reversing and restoring degraded lands can help to address several global challenges such as migration, water scarcity, hunger and food insecurity, deforestation, biodiversity loss and climate change.

**Mr. Chair,**

The sharp increases in food prices in 2008 and 2011 have affected many poor families particularly in developing countries. This calls for Food security and agricultural development to be a top priority on the international development agenda. The challenges to agricultural development and food security are many. Low productivity and low investment in smallholder agriculture, worsening land degradation and water scarcity in many agricultural areas and the intensifying effects of climate change on agricultural production affect agricultural development. The provision of large subsidies to farmers in high income countries and to biofuel producers as well as the introduction of export controls on food affect agricultural production and food security in developing countries.

To develop agriculture and ensure food security in Ghana, we have introduced programs to support the youth with mechanized services, access to improved seeds as well as extension services to enable them engage in agriculture production and increase agricultural productivity. Public Private Partnerships have been facilitated to establish commercial farms as well as agro processing factories to serve both domestic and international markets. Our efforts will not be

enough to develop our agricultural systems and ensure food security unless the issue of agricultural subsidies and export controls on food are addressed at the multilateral level.

**Mr. Chair,**

Energy availability, accessibility, affordability and security are fundamental requirements for any meaningful economic and social development. Ghana fully supports the Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) because it seeks to ensure universal access to modern energy, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy. It will therefore help to develop untapped energy resources and reduce energy poverty.

The initiative is encouraging many developing countries to undertake energy reforms, develop energy plans and programmes and attract new investments and financial support to the energy sector. So far the 50 billion dollars commitment by businesses, governments, and multilateral development banks will benefit more than 1 billion people. Ghana, therefore, calls for the declaration of a decade of sustainable energy for all to raise the profile of energy issues in the global development agenda and to attract the required investments.

**Mr. Chair,**

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) is being conducted this year. It allows the General Assembly to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of United Nations operational activities for development in the field and establish broad guidelines. The guidelines or new policy directions must strengthen the principles of ownership, mutual accountability and transparency as well as recognize the needs and priorities of developing countries. The 2012 QCPR must address the growing imbalance between core and noncore resources for the UN operational activities and strengthen coherence among United Nations development agencies to avoid fragmentation and ensure effectiveness.