

# GHANA



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STATEMENT BY

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DURING THE SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD)

RIO+20:

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Co-Chairs,

Ghana aligns itself with statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Argentina on behalf of G77 and China as well as by the distinguished representative of Tanzania on behalf of the Africa Group.

Our response to the questions posed in the guidance note are as follows:

#### 1) ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION GAPS

The gaps in implementation are due to lack of institutional capacity, political will and leadership, lack of financial resources and investments, technology transfer, and research and development.

- a) There is the need for strong pronouncements from leaders whose countries have commitments to meet
- b) Developed countries should indicate time lines for fulfillment of previous commitments and provide an annual update of commitments met. Developing countries also need to provide enabling environment for implementation of commitments.
- a) enforcement is required to ensure implementation. The Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) should be mandated to instruct or give directives to the operating entities to implement decisions agreed by member states. The CSD should be strengthened in terms of human and financial resources to monitor review and verify the activities of agencies and member states.
- b) UNDP, with its global presence, should be mandated to identify and compile best practices globally and share with member states.

#### 2. CRITICAL AREAS AND POLICIES AND TOOLS TO ADVANCE PROGRESS

The critical areas have been highlighted by the African Group this morning. To advance progress,

- i) there is the need to increase funding from GEF to issues on desertification, land degradation and drought. Procedures for accessing funds from GEF by developing countries particularly sub-saharan African countries should be simplified.
- ii) Make UNCCD serve as a global policy and monitoring framework on land degradation globally
- iii) Enhance financial resources to the three Rio conventions
- iv) GEF should support technology deployment in developing countries
- v) Setting up production centres for renewable energy (solar, wind) in Sub-Saharan African countries.
- vi) Investment in inland water bodies (lakes, dams and waters) hydro power, irrigation and soil fertility , etc

### 3. MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In measuring progress towards sustainable development, the criteria should include

- i) access to quality education and health.
- ii) Access to decent jobs
- iii) Ensuring equitable growth
- iv) Environmental goals and targets (sustainable development goals) for benchmarking, such as zero net land degradation target

### 4. GREEN ECONOMY

For Africa to benefit from the concept of Green Economy,

- i the private sector in Africa should be supported to develop
- ii there should be a balance between afforestation and investment in economic trees (teak, oil palm etc)
- iii. clear delineation of safe guards
- v. clarify the role of the private sector, the UN system, and member states in Green economy
- vi. identify the critical areas for developing countries which need green
- vi. green economy should be people centred. It requires investments in the development and deployment of clean technology in Africa, investment in

physical infrastructure, natural capital, and human and social capital. Need for research into tropical diseases

## 5. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, CAPACITY BUILDING AND FINANCING

Actions that can ensure that commitments are met include the following:

### TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- a) Joint research projects between developed countries and African countries
- b) Establishment of centres of excellence in Africa
- c) Support to domestic and regional research centres in Africa as well as local technology development

### FINANCE

- a) Enhance resources to financial mechanisms of the RIO conventions

### CAPACITY BUILDING

- a) The UNDP with its global presence in many countries should identify the needs of developing countries and seek the relevant support from developing countries.