

GHANA

**STATEMENT BY GHANA'S DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY, HONOURABLE JOHN GYETUAH AT THE 13TH
SESSION OF UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA,
AUSTRIA, 7-11 DECEMBER 2009**

**Mr. President,
Honourable Heads of Government,
Colleague Ministers of State,
Distinguish delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Ghana delegation, I wish to join other speakers before me in congratulating you and other distinguish members of the Bureau on your elections to steer the affairs of the Conference.

I also wish to express our deep appreciation to the contribution made by the immediate past President and other members of the Bureau.

In addition, my delegation wants to commend the Director General of UNIDO ,Dr. Yumkellah, and his staff for their untiring efforts and initiatives that were undertaken for the past four years to substantially transform UNIDO into a vibrant organisation. Indeed , I was not surprised by the unanimous decision taken by members of UNIDO to re-elect Dr. Yumkellah as the Director-General. We wish him a successful second term and assure him of our cooperation.

Ghana wishes to associate itself with the statements made by the African Group and G-77 and China.

Mr. President,

The Government of Ghana has over the past years introduced and implemented some major national policy initiatives and sectoral programme interventions, which have significantly

improved the climate for doing business in Ghana. These include the National Medium Term Private Sector Development Strategy, the Trade Sector Support Programme, the Land Administration Project, the Financial Sector Strategic Plan, Ports Rehabilitation Programme, the Gateway Project and the Public Sector Reform Programme. These pro-business reform initiatives and programme interventions have contributed positively in terms of improving the key indicators of a pro-business activities such as simplifying and reducing the time and cost of business registration, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, registering property and protecting investors.

Mr. President,

The main goal of Ghana's industrialisation strategy, within the framework of the theme of *Invest in People, in Jobs and in the Economy*, is to make the non-agricultural sectors provide a platform for absorbing surplus resources from the agricultural sector and thereby create productive employment and much higher incomes to households and businesses to become more and more competitive. Government believes that this can be achieved through rapid industrialisation with focus on manufacturing industries.

Consequently, the present Government of Ghana has identified strategic pillars for industrialisation. The strategic objectives are largely founded on key sub-sectors in manufacturing that offer the best growth opportunities. The following are some of the key elements for the pillars of industrial development:

- Processing for export of output from the extractive industries, namely agricultural and mineral products hitherto exported in crude state.
- Manufacturing for an expanding domestic and sub-regional markets
- Efficiency-based manufacturing for export based on imported inputs

- Because of the oil find, supporting the development of salt industry as a necessary input in the petro-chemical and other industries such as caustic soda is essential.

Mr. President,

The contribution of industrial development and cooperation to the development agenda such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be overemphasized. The UNIDO Trade Capacity-Building Programme involving the strengthening of the capacity of standard institutions in Ghana under the Medium Term Programme Framework (2008-2011) is on course. The result of this programme would support the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry in the country under the Global UNIDO Project to strengthen local production of essential generic drugs for domestic and sub-regional markets. The programme has further given the country a new direction about National Quality Infrastructure and National Quality Policy.

Some agro industries and agribusiness in the micro, small, and medium enterprises sector are expected to benefit from the programme.

To provide world first class services for small and medium enterprises, Ghana is restructuring one of its investment support institutions, the National Board for Small Scale Industries. We seek UNIDO assistance to enhance the sustainability of this sector of the manufacturing industry.

On green industries, Ghana has constructed an infrastructure for the Environmental Protection Agency for use as National Cleaner Production Centre and financial resources are being mobilized to kick start the cleaner production programme. I wish to appeal to our development partners to assist us in this direction.

Mr. President,

Permit me to comment on the UNIDO Medium -Term Programme Framework for 2010-2013. This programme has not departed from the 3 Thematic Priority areas of:

- I. Poverty reduction through productive activities**
- II. Trade Capacity Building**
- III. Environment and Energy.**

For the programme to have significant impact on the economies of Developing countries, it is recommended that the thematic components should be turned into Industrial Sector Support Programme. Adequate funding and capacity building would , however, have to be incorporated in it.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by stating that the ambitious vision that the Director-General and for that matter UNIDO has set up for itself for the next four years to increase technical cooperation from US\$124 million in 2008 to about US\$250 million in 2013 is laudable and can be achieved with the collaborative efforts of member states. When the vision is achieved, it would go a long way to enable developing countries fast track our industrial development and attain some of our Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this regard, I urge member states that have outstanding assessed contributions to honour their obligations and also encourage our development partners to continue to support UNIDO to enable our organisation to deliver.

Thank you.