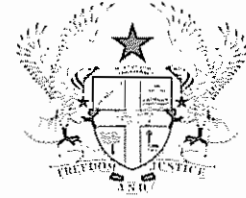


GHANA



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STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE ALHAJI MUHAMMAD MUMUNI,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as President of the Sixty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly. I trust that you will, with your outstanding experience and excellent diplomatic skills, steer this Assembly to a successful conclusion.

I also wish to thank your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, for the efficient and able manner with which he presided over the 64th Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Ghana subscribes to the Declaration by the African Union Assembly of Heads of States of 2010 as a year of Peace and Security. Ghana will, therefore, continue to engage other Member States in the search for peace and security in places which have known no peace on the African continent and also contribute to renewed global efforts to prevent conflicts through preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Mr. President,

As we witness a decline in the number of violent conflicts which afflicted many countries over the past decade or more, it is time to renew our commitment to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that countries emerging from conflicts do not relapse into violence. Ghana was privileged to have served on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission and will remain actively involved in the pursuit of the attainment of the strategic objectives set for the post-conflict countries on the agenda of the PBC's country-specific configuration. In this regard, Ghana supports the steps being taken to place Liberia also on the agenda of the Commission.

Mr. President,

As agreed by world leaders in 2005, Ghana strongly supports the Principle of the Responsibility to Protect as the normative framework to prevent and deter the occurrence of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing which occurred in many countries that were emerging from conflicts. While the fear of its abuse does not take away the intrinsic value of the principle of the responsibility to protect, caution must be exercised in order to avoid the abuse of the *responsibility to protect*. This principle is intended not to undermine the sovereignty of States. On the contrary, it is to ensure that sovereign

responsibility is exercised in a manner that will prevent a repetition of the mass atrocities that were experienced in places like Rwanda, Srebrenica, Cambodia and Sierra Leone with devastating impact in neighbouring countries.

Sadly, some of those conflicts linger on today in varying degrees of intensity in many places. The international community must be willing and ready to assist national authorities who will request such assistance with a view to developing or enhancing the capacity of countries which are manifestly unable or unwilling to uphold this responsibility to do so. To this end, we welcome the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a joint office to co-ordinate UN system-wide efforts to strengthen early warning mechanisms aimed at ensuring timely and decisive preventive action and or intervention in appropriate cases in accordance with the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

While the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger is a major development challenge facing Africa, most countries in the region are also grappling with the problems of climate change, high disease burden, poor infrastructure, brain drain and the lack of development of productive capacity. In the last few years, African countries have had to deal with the effects of rising food and energy prices and the complications emanating from the global financial and economic crisis. These multiple crises have not only reversed recent impressive progress made in economic performance, but are also jeopardizing efforts by African countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

It is gratifying that the interests of the international community in climate change have increased markedly in recent times, especially after the adoption of the Bali Action Plan in 2007. We need to sustain that interest and to build on the common ground that began in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, with the establishment of the UNFCCC and subsequently, in Berlin, Kyoto, Marrakesh, Bali, Copenhagen and soon, Cancun.

There are issues that need to be addressed for progress in Cancun and beyond. What is missing is a demonstrable political will. Without this, countries will not see the need to raise their ambitions to cut emissions. Industrialized countries have made pledges to cut emissions by 2020. However commendable these commitments may be, they fall short of the 25 to 40 percent cut which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says gives a chance of staying below the recommended two degree average global temperature rise.

We need to preserve the Kyoto Protocol, which currently is the only existing international agreement with legal status to verify emission reductions, and that is why it is critical for all Parties to work together to address the divisions over a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and ensure its continuity after 2012.

Just as there was an “Aid Fatigue”, developing countries may soon be experiencing a “Promise Fatigue”. We must get the numerous pledges off from the fine prints and make them work for humanity. I am simply appealing to industrialized nations to deliver their funding pledges, including the 30 billion dollars in fast-track financing for developing country adaptation and mitigation efforts through 2012, as well as the pledge to raise 100 billion dollars a year by 2020. For developing countries, the early delivery and transparent allocation of this money will boost our confidence in the dialogue and also show that industrialized countries are truly committed to progress in the broader negotiations.

Mr. President,

We have made progress in the implementation of the MDG agenda. However, keeping the solemn promise we made in 2000 and achieving the goals by 2015, will require intensified efforts, much more resources and effective cooperation. No one should be oblivious to the enormous challenges African and other developing countries face in their efforts to achieve the MDGs.

Mr. President,

Ghana will not compromise, under any guise, in its pursuit of good governance and the promotion of the rule of law as these are important prerequisites for achieving sustainable social and economic development. African countries themselves have come to acknowledge that part of the reasons for their impoverishment could be attributed to poor post-independence governance practices. That is why most African countries have taken steps to consolidate their governance institutions, including strengthening the electoral system.

Food security is a national priority for Ghana. For most Ghanaians, getting enough good quality food at affordable price is a major concern. The Government is therefore implementing a progressive agricultural policy that will ensure increased production, especially in staples and other food crops that our climate and land can efficiently support.

Mr. President,

Ghana will soon become an important producer of oil and gas. The focus of the Government is to ensure that Ghanaians will derive the maximum benefit from the oil production. Although oil revenues will start around the fourth quarter of the year, the Government is taking measures to ensure accountability and transparency in the management of revenue from the oil production. To this end, an Oil and Gas Revenue Management Bill has been submitted to Parliament for approval. In addition, the Government is holding series of consultations with several countries and private operators with the expertise and experience in the field to tap their knowledge and adopt best practices.

In our efforts to create wealth and prosperity for our citizens, Ghana has made attracting foreign investment an important pillar in its development strategies and we will continue to pursue such policies in the belief that our efforts will be supported and rewarded with a genuine partnership. Africa is tired of the misery and poverty arising out of resource-induced violent conflicts. Africa wants to use its oil and natural resources to create wealth for its citizens. We call on the United Nations and well-meaning development partners, including the international business community to support our efforts to nip the so-called resource curse in the bud, and exploit our God-given natural endowments for development.

Whereas the international environment for growth in Africa is still favourable, the risks posed by global imbalances, and external shocks such as the recent financial crisis, call for increased international policy coordination. We need a renewed spirit of solidarity and commitment for a comprehensive global response to confront the challenges of our time. It is in this light that Ghana wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the ideals of the United Nations and to continue to live up to its Charter obligations, including playing an active role in international peacekeeping to assist the Organization's task of maintaining global peace and security and for promoting fruitful and beneficial cooperation among Member States. We must resolve to muster the political will to strengthen the United Nations to function effectively to redeem the majority of our peoples from wars, diseases and poverty by providing the financial and material resources required to discharge these onerous responsibilities.

Mr. President,

It is only when we measure up to these responsibilities that we can give meaning to the phrase "We the Peoples of the United Nations".

I thank you for your attention.