

# **STATEMENT BY LEADER OF GHANA'S DELEGATION TO THE 6<sup>TH</sup> GEF ASSEMBLY – HON. EMMANUEL KYEREMATENG AGYARKO**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Chairman,

Ministers of state,

Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Emmanuel Agyarko, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and standing in for the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, who is unavoidably absent.

I bring you warmest greetings from the people of Ghana, West Africa. Indeed, it is an honour for me to be with you today, as we come together at this historic occasion when the GEF donor countries have confirmed their commitment to set the GEF and its partners on a course of addressing the key drivers of global environmental degradation and achieving multiple environmental and developmental benefits.

Permit me, on behalf of the Government of Ghana and people, to express our profound gratitude to the Global Environment Facility for championing the course of sustainable global environment, as well as the tremendous role the GEF Small Grants Programme, has played towards environmental sustenance, and sustainable livelihood development to the poor and the vulnerable communities over the years. We acknowledge the tremendous support GEF has been offered to Ghana. To date, we have received grant funding of up to \$381.50 million applied to 79 national and regional projects.

I would like to thank Dr. Naoko Ishii and the Secretariat on the substantial progress achieved so far in the negotiations for the seventh (7) replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and through her, to all donors for the commitment to continue to provide

financial support to developing countries to address the challenges of environmental degradation.

GEF-7 replenishment period comes at a defining moment for the future of the planet as environmental challenges threatens the very sustenance of mankind.

Despite the efforts of GEF in the past, these challenges seem to be accentuating. It is within this context, that financial resources and sustainable mechanism are required to help us address these challenges that threaten our very existence.

## **GEF 6 DISBURSEMENT**

Ghana utilized its GEF6 allocation to address key environmental challenges in a multi-sectoral way, synergistically addressed issues of biodiversity loss, land degradation, and climate change. Key successes achieved include:

- the adoption of a Spatial Development Framework for the Northern Savannah Zone, to guide future planning;
- roll out of 211 community participatory watershed plans;
- support to farmers to implement Sustainable Land Management technologies on 7,256.2ha of land;
- reforestation of 879ha of land within 2 forest Reserves;
- Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which led to the development of a National Biodiversity policy.

Over the period, we have learnt some important lessons, such as

- the importance of knowledge sharing among the sectors;
- continuous monitoring at the local, regional and national level; and
- the need for deep community involvement to sustain the activities being implemented.

Mr. Chairman, despite these modest achievements, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to address the enormous challenges that confront Ghana and the international community at large.

## **GEF 7 PROJECTIONS & REQUEST FOR GEF 7**

It is in this vain that GEF-7 replenishment period and the mechanisms put in place for resource allocation must be critically examined, if we are to make, and sustain positive impact on the environment.

As a nation, we have initiated environmental sustainability programmes in the use of our natural resources through the application of science, technology and innovation as captured in our current National Development Planning Framework (Agenda for Growth and Jobs 2018-2021).

Ghana has also signed the Minamata Convention and is committed to minimizing the use of mercury in artisanal small scale mining especially in the wake of illegal mining activities.

The Government of Ghana thus wishes to request for an increase in its allocation for GEF-7, to continue her commitment to ensuring sustainable global environmental benefits – suffice to say that Ghana will do this in partnership with SGP, CSOs, and the private sector.

Ghana wishes to pledge her support to GEF and will stimulate the much needed discussions and collaboration with the private sector players to establish an ecosystem-based approach to natural resources management.

Before I conclude, I wish to thank the government and people of Vietnam for all the courtesies extended to my delegation and the excellent facilities put at our disposal, in this beautiful city of Da Nang.

I thank you.