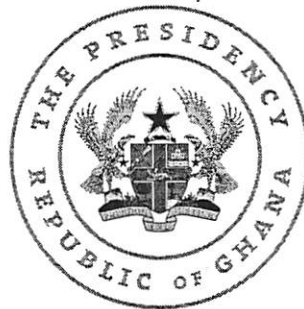


# GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
19 EAST 47TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743



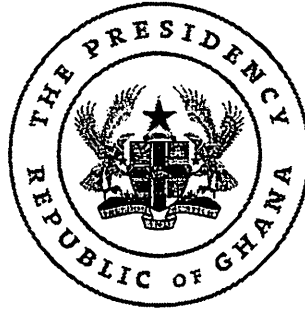
**STATEMENT BY H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**AT THE**

**UN SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL, New York  
27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

(Check Against Delivery)



Your Excellency President of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly

Your Excellency Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Your Excellences, Colleague Heads of State and Government

Distinguished Delegates

I bring you warm felicitations from the good people of Ghana, undoubtedly the world's friendliest country.

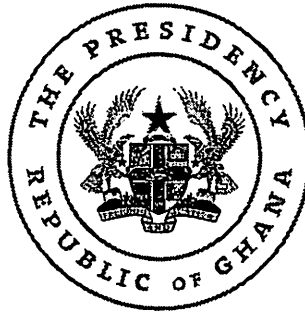
The adoption on Friday of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which comprises seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a major rededication of the world, to the commitment to fighting growing inequality, wiping out extreme poverty, and tackling the issues of climate change over the next 15 years.

The adoption of the new Goals at a time the United Nations turns 70, provides a level of hope to young people of the world that after decades of being in existence, the UN is still alive to the challenges of today's world.

Mr. President,

What we have adopted, and referred to simply as the SDGs is perhaps the most ambitious and transformational development agenda in the history of the United Nations.

We must tackle these challenges identified in the 17 goals as a matter of urgency, and we can also seize the opportunity offered by the adoption of the SDGs to tackle the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals.



In pursuing the SDGs, it is important for us to redefine a new paradigm of development. The current high consumption of wasteful societies we classify as developed cannot be the model for sustainable development.

If the current attraction of the big cities of the so-called developed world, such as shopping malls bursting at the seams with all kinds of consumer goods, glitzy neon lighting and KFC fast foods are the standard to be classified as developed, then we will need two more planets, the size of our earth, to maintain and sustain the human race.

The world's resources are not infinite. If we are to attain the objective of a sustainable consumption and production pattern under Goal 12, then it will be necessary for us to review the relations between labour, production and capital.

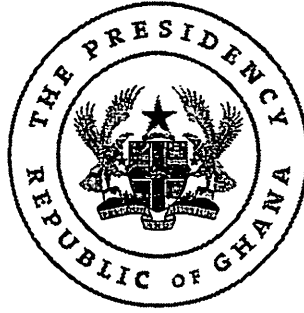
Mr. President,

The path to sustainable development for my country Ghana and many other African countries has been a difficult one. We have been consigned to be producers of primary commodities, while all secondary and tertiary processing is done in the developed world and finished goods exported back to us.

If the teeming youth of Africa must find jobs at home and stop attempting to cross the Mediterranean to enter the greener pastures of Europe, then we must review the role Africa plays in world production. A significant portion of processing and value addition must relocate to the continent.

I stand here at the UN and commit to the people of Ghana that I will continue to aggressively and with dynamism implement our country Agenda for Transformation within the framework of the newly adopted SDGs in order to build a life of dignity that ensures no one is left behind.

Through the implementation of our Agenda for Transformation developed by the National Development Planning Commission, we aim to diversify production and exports, be more competitive on international markets, increase productivity of all



resource inputs and upgrade technologies in order to make the much anticipated leap out of poverty.

The Africa Union's Agenda 2063, Mr. President, makes a strong case for integrating our economies on the continent to accelerate transformative change.

To achieve this, we have to invest in our human capital through education and health care, accelerate infrastructural development to link African economies, address inequalities while building meaningful relationships with the private sector.

For Africa, a focus on Goals 2 and 7 of the SDGs will provide us with the needed impetus to ensure economic growth and transformation.

Mr. President,

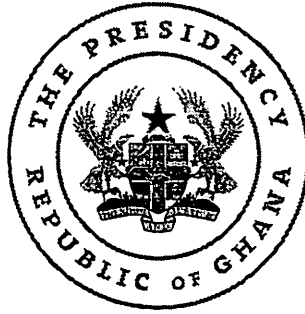
The green revolution has never really taken off in Africa. And yet Africa has a significant proportion of the world's remaining arable lands.

With improved seeds, fertilisers, appropriate technology, and agricultural extension advice, we would not only increase agricultural productivity in Africa, but we will also provide jobs for the growing population of young people.

This will also fit hand in glove with an expansion of agro processing and agribusiness for which Africa has a comparative advantage.

The focus on access to sustainable and modern energy in Goal 7 emphasises the situation in Africa today, where the shortage of power remains a major constraint to our economic development.

I speak for Ghana as an example where two decades of consistent positive economic growth, has led to an average 10 to 12% annual increase in demand for power. This has caused demand for electricity to exceed supply. To keep our system running, we have resorted to the implementation of a load management system.



We have put in place a programme to introduce emergency generation into the system, but are mindful to ensure that we use as much clean energy sources as possible to the benefit of our current and future generations.

Mr. President,

The MDGs have been good. They have in the last 15 years helped address socio-economic inequalities and disparities in national, regional and global development.

In Ghana, the MDGs have always been a core part of our national development frameworks since September 2000. That has helped us make modest but significant progress in the achievement of the MDGs.

Ghana is therefore well positioned and poised to drive the SDGs in the post-2015 development era.

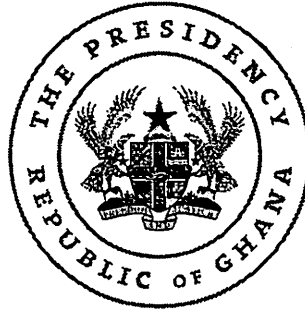
Mr. President,

As one of Africa's fastest growing economies, Ghana's rise to middle-income status presents us with both burgeoning opportunities and also daunting challenges. With the inspiration and guidance of the SDGs, we are confident of our ability to surmount these trials. We have a vision and a development agenda for the next 15 years.

It remains my strong position that the post-2015 development agenda must be driven by technological innovation. For this reason, Ghana looks forward to the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism to support the implementation of our agenda.

Mr. President,

The issue of illicit financial outflows from the developing world makes poor nations net exporters of capital to rich nations. We wish once again to urge that the UN Audit Board be transformed into a full United Nations Agency to help monitor, trace and bring to account, any multi-national or transnational institutions that engage in untoward financial practices.



On behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, I pledge our support and commitment to working towards achieving the SDGs and look forward to working with other regional and global partners to make them a reality.

Our world is well endowed with resources to ensure that every man, woman, child, person with disability, aged person, lives a happy, fulfilled and secured life of hope and promise and not one of poverty and disillusionment.

The time for collective action for the progress we all yearn is now.

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will transform our world.

I thank you all for your attention.