

**CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MR DANIEL AMLALO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, GHANA AT THE MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON ENHANCING ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND RURAL TRANSPORT AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE CSD-19 HELD 2-13 MAY 2011 IN NEW YORK**

Mr Chair,

Excellencies'

The transport sector has evolved to satisfy a wide range of sectors. Indeed, an efficient, cost effective and sustainable transport system is indispensable to the economic, social, environmental and political development of our countries. In our part of the world, transport plays a critical catalytic role in addressing poverty and correcting rural and urban spatial planning distortions.

Transport is also associated with significant environmental and health concerns including atmospheric pollution and climate change. We therefore need to maximise the opportunities offered by effective and efficient transportation systems, while minimising its negative impacts. The Government of Ghana will strongly support any pragmatic policies and programmes that stimulate the transport sector for long term development. In taking advantage of the new growth opportunities that Ghana has begun to enjoy on account of prudent economic and fiscal policies, new and additional support to assist national development priorities including the transport sector will be paramount.

Ghana seeks to improve urban and rural transportation system through the implementation of a transport policy aimed at promoting a safer, more reliable, efficient and fully integrated transport system that is responsive to the needs of society at the least possible cost within the country. For this goal to

materialise, substantial investments are being made in the transport sector to ensure a balance and sustainable transport system. Some priority actions being taken include:

- Improvement in Transport Infrastructure and Services in Urban and Rural Areas
- Integrated development and transport planning
- Improvement in transport safety
- Development of intermodal transport system
- Reduction in road traffic congestion and travel time through the introduction of mass transport systems
- Strengthening legal and institutional framework

We are also aware of the environmental concerns of transport. Indeed, transport consumes energy and contributes significantly to climate change and atmospheric pollution. In Ghana, the transport sector contributes 23 % of energy related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is the fastest growing sector in terms of GHG emissions in our country. We are therefore committed to ensuring that environmental issues are mainstreamed into the implementation of transport improvement plans and programmes for sustainable development.

It is therefore our expectation that the conference will support policies and programmes that will enhance sustainability and promote an efficient and cost effective and integrated transport system, that will respond to the needs of society, while supporting growth and poverty reduction.

I Thank you