

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON Ms SHERRY AYITTEY, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, GHANA AT THE MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE EXPECTATIONS FROM RIO+20 AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF CSD 19

Ghana associates itself with the statement already made by the Group of 77 and China and believes that sustainable development remains the key to attaining the Millennium Development Goals and that, the Rio+20 Conference should endeavour to balance the three pillars of sustainable development i.e. economic development, social development and environmental protection.

A green economy needs to be understood in the context of sustainable development and consistent with the Rio principles.

Institutional framework for sustainable development will ensure that political commitment is renewed and efforts redoubled so that institutions such as the UNEP, and other UN specialized bodies involved in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda within the United Nations system would become more efficient and effective, through improved synergies and the provision of adequate resources.

Ghana sees both themes as bedfellows that should be promoted concurrently. To attain a green economy you need the right structures in place.

Ghana has begun putting in place the right structures while at the same time promoting the attainment of a green growth plan for the economy. Already, a bus rapid transit has been initiated and public transport has become government priority. Renewable energy programmes, water and land management plans etc are all combined efforts by our government at achieving the green economy while strengthening the existing structures and building some new ones as well

Ghana is very much concerned with inadequate preparations for the conference. The preparations in our view are not in-depth enough and we think that informal and intersessional meetings should show more commitment towards discussing and negotiating for a wider range of issues covered by the two conference themes. Developing countries such as Ghana need assistance to undertake in-country preparatory processes involving a wide range of stakeholders. There is need to carry out country assessments, update country profiles on the Agenda 21 themes to make the Prepcom 3 in particular scheduled for 2012 more outcome oriented. Currently, the spirit is weak and the pace is too slow when one compares preparations for this summit to the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002.

The lack lustre approach signals that Rio+20 may after all not really

address the deficits and the emerging issues of our world as we would expect it to do.

We call for a total re-invigoration of preparations.

Thank you.