

Statement by Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, Director-General of the National Development Planning Commission and Senior Economic Adviser to the President of Ghana at the 2016 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) General Debate on the theme, “Ensuring that no one is left behind,” New York, 19 July 2016.

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you for convening this meeting and to thank you for the opportunity to deliver Ghana’s statement. I also wish to assure you of Ghana’s support and commitment to the success of our deliberations.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the distinguished representative of Tunisia on behalf of the Group of African States.

I also bring you warm greetings from President John Mahama of Ghana who, along with the Prime Minister of Norway, is the Co-chair of the group of sixteen (16) eminent Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Advocates to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to generate momentum and commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 coincided with two significant processes in Ghana. 2015 was the second year of Ghana’s 4-year medium-term plan of 2014 to 2017. It was also the year that Ghana began developing a long-term national development plan, or framework, to guide the preparation of 10 medium-term plans after 2017. The first medium-term plan will run from 2018 to 2021 and the last and 10th one will coincide with the centenary anniversary of Ghana’s independence in 2057. That is a total of 40 years with the objective of transforming Ghana into a high income country from a lower MIC.

In addition to the 2030 Agenda, Ghana is obliged by virtue of its membership of the African Union to incorporate the first ten years of the AU’s Agenda 2063 into our national development agenda. We have already outlined how this would be

done in a coherent and robust manner to ensure that Ghana can periodically report on progress to the UN and the AU, respectively, within the context of its national development agenda.

We are using what we call the Triple-A Strategy of Alignment, Adaptation, and Adoption in cooperation with the private sector and civil society.

Under alignment, we are working with national and sub-national authorities to determine the extent to which their existing development priorities accord with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

In this regard, the Coordinating Unit on SDGs in Ghana is carrying out a national dissemination and sensitization exercise for key stakeholders and government officials on SDGs. In addition, government officials are being trained to align their sector plans with the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Adaptation allows us to modify and localize the targets of the two agendas and incorporate them into our long-term national development plan. And, under adoption, we merely transfer the targets of the two Agendas into our long-term national development plan without any modification. Efforts at establishing the relevant indicators of progress are also ongoing.

The First Step of Agenda 2063 is 10 years, while the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is 15 years. We have two other frameworks, namely the National Spatial Development Framework (2015-2035), which is 20 years and will help improve human settlements planning and management, and the National Infrastructure Plan (2018-2047), which is 30 years and will cover a wide range of public, private and civic infrastructure, including schools, sewerage systems, railways and recreational facilities in every community in Ghana.

We view structural reforms as critical preconditions for the successful implementation of our national development agenda. The three dimensions of these reforms are: legislative and legal reforms; policy reforms; and institutional reforms aimed at removing mandate overlaps and conflicts to make government

efficient and more responsive to the needs of a growing population and a changing society with correspondingly growing expectations.

I am happy to report that even before we have completed the long-term national development plan, our Parliament and government have begun work on these very important reforms.

We hope to be able to provide more details on our work at subsequent forums on both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

I thank you for your attention.