

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. RUDOLPH KUUZEGH, HEAD OF DELEGATION, GHANA, ON BEHALF OF HON Ms SHERRY AYITTEY, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AT THE OPENING OF THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF CSD 19 ON 11th MAY 2011

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ghana associates herself with the statement and position already articulated by the Group of 77 and China and wishes to, in addition, articulate the following points in support of the cluster of issues raised at the policy session of this CSD implementation cycle.

Mr. Chairman, the thematic issues of mining, transport, chemicals, waste and sustainable consumption and production patterns are very relevant to developing countries and must produce outcomes that benefit the broad layers of society, particularly women, youth, children and vulnerable groups and communities. The formulation and implementation of policies, and programmes at international, regional, national and local levels on these issues should involve all through partnerships, especially partnerships between governments of the North and the South on one part, and governments and major groups on the other part, in order to achieve widely shared goals of sustainable development. These are concerns that we all already agreed to in Johannesburg in 2002 at the WSSD.

Excellencies, Ghana is happy to note that this policy session immediately precedes the Rio + 20 Conference which comes on next year. The two themes of the Conference which border on building the green economy for sustainable development and reforming institutional arrangements for sustainable development are relevant also for the decisions that we shall arrive at in this session.

Mr. Chairman, to briefly touch on the individual issues within the cluster we recognize that policies on **waste** must continue to support the preventive and resource recovering approach. We should also encourage the promotion of waste minimization while maximizing reuse, recycling and the use of environmentally friendly alternative materials. The participation of government, the private sector and all other stakeholders to mitigate and control the adverse effects of waste pollution on our environment should be our priority concern. We therefore call on especially the developed countries to provide financial, technical and other forms of assistance to tackle the waste menace which has become a nemesis for many developing countries.

On **mining**, Ghana's position is that mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of our country. We therefore support efforts to maximize the benefits of and address the environmental, economic, health and social

impacts of activities related to mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including the health and safety of workers and communities. Time is rife for governments, mining companies and intergovernmental organizations to show more transparency and accountability for sustainable and responsible mining and minerals development.

On **chemicals**, Ghana calls for the adoption of policies that seek to phase out hazardous chemicals so as to protect human health and the environment. In relation to this we support the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the promotion of synergies in the implementation of the chemicals and wastes related multilateral environmental agreements.

The fundamental policy objective of Ghana's **transport** sector is to establish an efficient and integrated transport network for the movement of people and goods at the least possible cost within the country. Some of our existing policies relevant to the transport sector also aim to respond to the threat of climate change on our national economy. Support is needed from the international community and all our friends to foster the links between a resilient transport network and the opportunity to use transport infrastructure development, in particular, the public transport system to link up locations of key services, as a way to low carbon growth in Ghana. In this way Ghana would be achieving its set target of becoming the transport hub for West Africa.

Mr. Chairman, Ghana is committed to the promotion of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns and would encourage all countries to promote SCP, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, especially principle 7 which sets out the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

In this regard, Ghana supports the promotion of the 10 year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Ghana has put in place a sustainable development action plan in nine thematic areas including the five CSD thematic areas and will initiate two pilot projects this year.

In promoting the 10 YFP we must take into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries in particular, and provide them with the wherewithal to increase investments in cleaner production and for eco-efficiency.

Excellencies, Ghana prays that the good opportunity offered by this session would not slip through our hands without mutually beneficial outcomes even as we prepare for Rio+20 to take stock of twenty years of working hard to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty.

I thank you.