

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the discussions on Africa.

While the other thematic areas are equally important we believe they have been quite well covered by previous speakers. Ghana would therefore want to associate itself with the presentation by the African Union, especially as relates to mining.

African is richly endowed with mineral resources and these resources have the potential to contribute significantly to the sustainable development of the continent. While in the past, individual countries have worked at employing their minerals to sponsor development. Most of these attempts have not worked very well. However, as discussed earlier this morning it has been acknowledged that sustainable development, through mining or any other economic activity, must be by an integrated approach. It is in this context that the African ministers responsible for mining came together under the African Mining Partnership (AMP) to promote a collaborative approach to development through mining. The AMP has recently been absorbed into the AU's structure through the Council of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resource Development, which has as a key objectives, to promote the adoption and implementation of the AU's Mining Vision at national, regional and continental levels. This is being carried forward through the facilitation of development of action plans, for implementation, at all the levels.

Ghana believes this is the way to go if we plan to catalyse the sustainable development of the African continent through mining. Ghana would therefore plead that development partners should collaborate with the AU initiative to ensure that we lay a solid foundation for the sustainable development of Africa.

Thank you, Chairman.

Best Regards,

**Ben Aryee**