

COMMENTS BY MR. RUDOLPH S. KUUZEGH, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT OF GHANA, DURING THE SESSION ON POLICY OPTION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation endorses the comments already made by Pakistan, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I wish to state that most of the concerns were contained in my presentation during the IPM in February/ March this year and they are still relevant.

Climate Change is a real threat to both the rich and the poor. The challenges posed by the phenomenon of climate change in our parts of the world, and Ghana in particular are enormous and further retards the national strive towards poverty reduction.

We wish to see the chairman's text come out with accurate recommendations on the following:

We wish to re-emphasize that in Ghana women are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, both socially and economically. In this regard, we call on countries and the international community to work out strategies and conduct gender impact analysis to identify mitigation and adaptation needs of women in particular. We call on governments and all relevant institutions to involve women at all levels of decision making on climate change to take advantage of the special skills of women in natural resource management.

Lack of, or weak climate observation systems and networks in Africa, inadequate knowledge of climate change to the broad masses of our people, inadequate climate change policy and adaptation measures in national development strategies, means of implementation are crucial and we must engage these issues at this session.

In Ghana, Climate Change is clearly manifested in various ways, - sea level rise, coastal erosion, land degradation, drought and desertification, loss of biodiversity are but a few of our concerns.

Mr. Chairman,

The IPCC admitted in its recent report that the least poor countries which contribute the least to climate change are unfortunately those most affected by its impacts.

Addressing climate change, as with energy and the other thematic areas being discussed at this session, is a cross-cutting, multisectoral and transboundary exercise.

Ghana supports the enhancement and promotion of policy coherence and integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation concerns into priority development policies and programmes including PRSPs, so as to address climate change in an integrated manner.

Ghana also calls for the establishment of climate forums to enhance regional cooperation on climate and early warning and information sharing generally.

We support the views that the Kyoto Protocol still offers the best opportunity for addressing or managing climate change.

Thank You.