

STATEMENT BY GHANA

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**AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE ALAN KYEREMATEN, MINISTER
FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL INITIATIVES
OF GHANA AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION
CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD XI), HELD
IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL, FROM TO 18 JUNE, 2004**

**MR. PRESIDENT,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Permit me, first of all, to express to you, Mr. President, the pleasure and confidence of my delegation in your election to preside over this conference. We have no doubt that under your very able leadership and guidance, the Conference will achieve maximum success in its deliberations.

I would also like to express through you, Mr. President, to the Government and people of Brazil, my deep appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded my delegation. The excellent facilities that have been placed at our disposal will no doubt contribute to the success of the Conference.

Mr. President,

It is the conviction of my delegation that our common goal at this Conference is to achieve outcomes that would contribute positively to the integration of the developing countries into the global economy.

In that endeavour, my delegation further perceives the need, to be guided by the following:-

The experiences and challenges of implementing the Bangkok Plan of Action; and

The trends and initiatives that have emerged at the global level in the arena of trade and development since the Bangkok Conference, particularly as they impact on national policies of developing countries.

It is in these contexts, Mr. President that my delegation considers the theme and sub-themes chosen for this eleventh conference, most appropriate. We consider enhancing coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes as an absolute necessity, in the definition and implementation of development strategies in the globalizing world economy. It is also essential, for assuring any development gains from the international trading system and from trade negotiations. For developing countries, however, the gains can only be assured, through the building of their productive capacity and their international trade competitiveness, which in turn requires the involvement of all national and international stakeholders in a partnership.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Let me recall that four years ago, we concluded the Tenth UNCTAD Conference in Bangkok on a high note of optimism, that globalization and interdependence would open new opportunities for the growth of the world economy and for the integration of developing countries, while acknowledging at the same time that globalization posed new challenges.

Following UNCTAD X, there were again, various encouraging global and other initiatives that appeared to give substance to such optimism. These initiatives which, among others, included the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Third Programme of Action for LDCs adopted in Brussels, the Launch of the WTO Doha Development Agenda and the notable trade preferential and debt relief initiatives, were all focused on the trade and development challenges facing developing countries. These initiatives were intended to address poverty reduction, debt sustainability, improving market access opportunities, and integrating developing countries into the global trading system in order to ensure their broad-based economic growth and development.

Mr. President,

It is disappointing, that in spite of the valuable potentials of these initiatives, any impact assessment and reality check on them, would reveal little improvements in trade, finance and the development of the social circumstances of developing countries. The nature of the implementation of these initiatives and the commitment of stakeholders have often been

contradictory and insufficient, to the real needs of developing countries. A contribution to the full realization of the benefits of these initiatives, should therefore, Mr. President, be a major challenge of this Conference.

UNCTAD XI offers an opportunity to identify new development strategies tailored to the specific development needs and circumstances of developing countries, as well as issues and policies that developing countries need to pursue to enhance their integration into the global economy. These include building their productive capacities and international competitiveness, and deriving development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations.

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

In meeting these challenges, there is the need to avoid the tempting conclusion of some partners, that developing countries are probably not doing enough on their part for their own development. Developing countries certainly do recognize and continue to demonstrate in practical terms, that they have the primary responsibility for their own development. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and similar self-inspired developing country initiatives, do demonstrate a new trend in the direction of national and regional ownership of development strategies and an acceptance of mutual accountability in development cooperation.

There is, therefore the urgent need Mr. President, for our development partners to respond and adapt to this emerging new trend.

In that regard, UNCTAD, as the principal organ of the United Nations dealing with trade, investment and development issues, has a critical and central role to play, in partnership with other stakeholders, in actively supporting the developing countries, as they assume the primary responsibility for their own development.

The effective discharge of UNCTAD's responsibilities, Mr. President, however, requires that this Conference re-affirms and not in anyway, seek to circumscribe its mandate. It requires that all stakeholders renew and increase their commitment to UNCTAD's institutional goals and objectives. The starting point for the renewal of our commitment to the objectives of UNCTAD is the Negotiated Text before this Conference. As the Document that will guide UNCTAD's work programme for the next four years, we should endeavour to ensure, that the final outcome re-affirms, enhances and reinvigorates UNCTAD's role and mandate.

The enhancement of UNCTAD's mandate is not a call for its amendment. It is a call for strengthening UNCTAD's role, by adequately resourcing UNCTAD and assisting it carry out a focused work programme, on issues of critical importance to developing countries, especially Africa. In that regard, it is pertinent to recall that since its inception, UNCTAD has been active in dealing with the development problems of developing countries in the interrelated fields of trade, finance, investment, technology, research, policy analysis, policy advice, consensus-building and technical assistance aimed at capacity building. As the institution celebrates its forty years of existence, the minimum this Conference can do, Mr. President, is to acknowledge its maturity with the corresponding immense contribution,

and endeavour to reposition it with the maximum capacity to face the challenges ahead.

In that context, Mr. President, permit me to convey through you, to His Excellency Rubens Ricupero, the deep appreciation of my delegation, and the Government and people of Ghana, for his distinguished contribution and leadership of UNCTAD during some of its momentous periods.

In addition, let me say that, the greatest tribute we could pay to the end of His Excellency Ricupero's mandate would be to adequately address the concerns of developing countries in the Doha Development Round Negotiations, the successful outcome of which, H.E. Ricupero is deeply committed.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me end on this note by indicating, that while my delegation does not underestimate the challenges we face in the effort to drive the UNCTAD agenda forward, we must stress the need for all parties to be committed and dedicated to the tasks ahead in genuine partnership and friendship.

I thank you. Mr. President.