

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HON.OWURAKU AIDOO, DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
ON THE
OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY
26–28 October 2022, Washington D.C., USA**

MADAM PRESIDENT

YOUR EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. It is a great pleasure to address the fifth ‘International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century’. This platform and the objective of this Ministerial Conference could not have come at a more opportune period. **In the current difficult global context**, we cannot be oblivious **to the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**. At the same time there is the need to re-evaluate our efforts in ensuring accessibility, affordability, reliability, and sustainability in respect of modern energy for all as per our collective global commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, SDG 7.
2. This conference is **important** to Ghana on the global, regional, and local fronts. On the State specific front, this conference comes after a recent national commitment statement issued by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, concerning Ghana’s National Position of incorporating nuclear power into the electricity generation mix based on the Ghana’s Phase 1 Nuclear Programme Comprehensive Report (PCR). This commitment officially ushered Ghana into Phase 2 of our nuclear power programme as prescribed by the IAEA Milestones Approach for Nuclear Infrastructure Development where we must choose a vendor partner for our nuclear power project. Currently, Ghana’s nuclear programme is technology neutral that considers both

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Large conventional power plants. Our decision to select a vendor for our first nuclear plant would be based on our aspirations as a Country.

3. Indeed, the National Position statement by the President of the Republic of Ghana was arrived at after a careful study of the PCR, presented to Ghana's cabinet by the Ghana Nuclear Power Programme Organisation (our NEPIO). The PCR took a holistic view of the progress made regarding the nineteen infrastructural issues. As the sector deputy minister, I doff my hat to our country men and women who have worked tirelessly to bring us to this point of our nuclear power development where the Government had a decision-making blueprint which accounted for all the infrastructure issues.
4. As we all know, energy remains a critical factor in the socioeconomic development of every nation and Ghana is no exception. Without energy, the ability to do work is seriously hindered but in the 21st Century, it is not about just energy but how the energy source impacts our climate and the environment in general. Aside from the assurances of safety, there are other compelling reasons for the incorporation of nuclear power into our energy generation mix including but not limited to energy diversification, industrialisation, environmental considerations and potential lower tariffs for industry.
5. The 21st Century energy systems requires alternative baseloads that not only reliably respond to demands but also plays a significant role in the fight against climate variability and change. This presents a challenge that Ghana believes nuclear power holds the answer to. As a country, we believe our success in adding nuclear to the generation mix will represent hope, not for us alone, but for the community of nations in sub-Saharan Africa and the African Continent.
6. Ghana is therefore determined to add nuclear power to the generation mix and we know our success to achieve this important feat will have implications for the achievement of the other sustainable development goals because of the obvious nexus between SDG 7 and the other SDGs. Nuclear power is a zero emitting dense energy source, makes it an obvious option for decarbonization.
7. Ghana has intensified its commitment to the global effort to fight the impact of

climate change by establishing the National Energy Transition Committee to prepare a national Energy Transition Plan. The implementation of the Energy Transition Plan will not only affect the energy sector but will have implications on our everyday life. Thus, as part of Ghana energy transition plan, nuclear power has been found to be a suitable technology to greatly assist Ghana realize its energy transition goals. In addition, the inclusion of nuclear power into the energy generation mix we believe will create the needed job opportunities for our young people and support a just transition.

8. In conclusion, permit me to remind us, that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development **adopted** in 2015, **provided** the aspiration for peace and prosperity. We will admit that some significant progress has been made. We must **also** acknowledge that our collective efforts to meet the 2030 Agenda is not progressing at the speed envisaged at its birth. While the developed countries may be close to the finishing line, developing countries are lagging behind and are also challenged by the negative effects of climate change. **We, therefore, call for enhance cooperation and collaboration between the developed world and developing countries through sharing and transfer of technology to bridge this gap.**

9. Thank you very much for your attention.