

STATEMENT MADE BY HON. FRANK ANNOH-DOMPHEH
MP FOR NSAWAM ADOAGYIRI AND CHAIRMAN FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, ON THE 74th UNITED NATIONS DAY
CELEBRATION: CONSOLIDATING THE GLOBAL AGENDA FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Right Honorable Speaker, I rise to make this profound statement in commemoration of the **United Nations Charter of 1945** which is celebrated on the **24th of October** each year. The United Nations is so far the largest intergovernmental organization. Having a membership of one hundred and ninety three (193) sovereign states, the UN remains the most influential body, representing a global identity for humanity and built on a solid foundation of securing the future generation and our planet earth. This honorable house has had the privilege over the years, to foster the inclusion of our dear nation Ghana into the global sphere, through relevant dialogue that informs our policy making process and aligns it with the overarching aim of the United Nations charter.
2. The United Nations marked **74 years on the 24th of October this year**, consolidating all the efforts of international and local actors, and drawing our attention to the major present day challenge, **climate change!**
3. Mr. Speaker, all around the world, some member states of the UN themed this celebration to highlight key issues in the different regions of the world. Nonetheless, I concur with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' theme that stated "*Clean environment*

for a healthy living, our collective responsibility” and with the view that climate action is the new drive, now demanding intergovernmental support at all levels.

4. In recent times Mr. Speaker, aside the annual Conference of Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework for Climate Change, (UNFCCC), Africa has seen a proliferation of climate related events including Africa’s maiden edition of the **Climate Change Summit** that took place in Nigeria last year, the **Africa Climate Week**, the **Water Security & Climate Change Conference**, the **African Climate Risks Conference**, with a host of others, all reflecting the importance of this global move as recognized by the UN this year.
5. Right Honorable Speaker, It is also on this tangent, that local actors which comprise of non-governmental organizations, the civil society groups, private enterprises, farming communities, as well as the citizenry in energy and environment related industries, are being mobilized to contribute one way or another to climate action.
6. According to the **International Negotiations Survey (INS)** hosted by the **Center for Climate Science & Policy Research** in Sweden, an assessment of climate action, with emphasis on various categories of **local actors** since 2010, has identified certain **roles** under the broader climate action plan. They include; (i) influencing the agenda, (ii) influencing policy makers, (iii) taking mitigation action, (iv) taking adaptation action, (v) proposing solutions, (vi) providing expertise, (vii) evaluating consequences, (viii) raising awareness, (ix) representing public opinion and (x) representing marginalized voices.

7. In all the roles identified Mr. Speaker, the results of the survey show that non-state actors are indeed contributing appreciably across the entire spectrum of roles, which is commendable and in line with the UN advocacy that themed the celebrations on UN Day last week. Nevertheless, more participation, will ensure that contributions prescribed by the Paris Agreement will be met within the specified time frames.
8. Mr. Speaker, prior to this very celebration, the nation has witnessed the participation of many Ghanaians increasing in the immediate past, in correlation with Ghana's renewed objective for the SDGs. I recognize the efforts of the President, His Excellency Nana Addo Danquah Akufo Addo, who is also the Co-Chair of SDGs Advocates, Ghana's Ministry of Energy, the efforts of Dr. Adolf Acquaye, Dr. Joseph Ekow Essandoh-Yeddu and Dr. Lawrence Agbemabiese who assumed positions in the working group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, among many other significant role-players who have elevated the relevance of climate action especially in the Africa region.
9. Mr. Speaker, the just ended **Climate Chance Summit Africa 2019**, brought forth the **Accra Declaration** which has further defined the scope of Africa's action in climate change to highlight; (a) **a balance in funding for both adaptation and mitigation**, (b) **the evocation of the Green Climate Fund** to establish finance accessibility through the Urban and Municipal Developments Fund, (c) **the initiative of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** of Africa to elaborate Locally Determined Contributions through revision of the NDCs and also (d) **"The Accra Climate Dialogue"** representing an adoption of the annual African

Climate Change Summit. as “pre-COP” of non-state and local government actors. among other key issues.

10. It is encouraging to see the steady increase in involvement of local governments and non-state organizations joining hands to advance the outcomes of Ghana’s NDCs.

11. Mr. Speaker, the **UN Climate Action Summit 2019** in New York also focused on four (4) interdependent tracks ahead of COP25 in Chile, and devised concrete plans in the areas of (i). **Mitigation** - that deals with emission reductions, (ii). **social and political drivers** -dealing with the well-being and gender issues, (iii). **Youth and public mobilization** - dealing with increasing their participation in the dialogues, (iv). **the energy transition** - that addresses the need to accelerate the switch to clean energy production. Five (5) other tracks were introduced for (a) **climate finance & carbon pricing**, (b) **nature based solutions**, (c) **local action in city infrastructure**, (d) **industry transition** and (e) **resilience & adaptation**. It is evident that this is an all-encompassing developmental agenda that invites all stakeholders to the climate change process at the same time spreading reformation into many sectors within states.

12. Mr. Speaker in all these action plans, the UN has managed to use its global reach to draw together all the categories of climate change actors into a unified force to take advantage in this critical period in our quest to address climate change and I can suggest no better mechanism than **strength-in-unity**.

13. I am confident that a continuous advocacy for action will transmit the sense of responsibility to all levels of actors in their respective states be it to groups or to individuals, and will ensure success in the climate change agenda.
14. Mr. Speaker, as the upcoming Conference of Parties in Chile are most likely to conclude article 6 of the Paris rulebook, which is proposing the establishment of a policy framework for an emission trading system, Africa and Ghana for that matter cannot and should not lose out on this carbon trade concept.
15. An environmental conservation tax may also be in need as issues surrounding climate change develop. Climate finance for adaptation measures would also need to be prioritized in order to achieve the balance in climate expenditure, for a holistic solution to be realized.
16. In concluding, Mr. Speaker, Ghana's frontline actors line should focus on simplifying our needed efforts as a nation and build the capacities of all stakeholders in their appreciation of climate change concerns. Humanity is in a race which we can win and these are the defining moments.
17. I thank you for the opportunity Mr. Speaker.

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