

NATIONAL STATEMENT OF GHANA DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY DAMPTEY BEDIAKO ASARE, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF GHANA TO KENYA AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA 6), NAIROBI, KENYA

President of UNEA 6,
Executive Director of UNEP,
Esteemed delegates, distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour to address the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. On behalf of the Republic of Ghana, I extend our sincerest gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme and all participating nations for their unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship.

Our collective action has never been more imperative in the face of the unprecedented global environmental challenges, including climate change, drought and desertification, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, pollution and waste, including plastic waste, among others. The urgency of our situation cannot be overstated, and it is our responsibility as global citizens to act decisively to safeguard our shared habitat.

In Ghana, we are deeply committed to the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of our natural habitats. Ghana is home to rich and diverse ecosystems, from our rainforests to our vibrant coastal waters. We recognize the importance of preserving these invaluable resources for future generations and are working tirelessly to strengthen our protected areas, combat illegal wildlife trade, and promote sustainable land management practices.

We recognize the critical importance of protecting our environment for the prosperity and security of our people. We have witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts of environmental degradation on our communities, ecosystems, and economy. But we refuse to be passive observers in the face of these daunting challenges. Instead, we are determined to take decisive actions to confront them.

Ghana recognizes the urgent need to support biodiversity and strengthen the implementation of the ocean's treaty to help us in the establishment of marine protected areas, safeguarding the ocean from human pressures as a major contribution to reducing climate change, protecting biodiversity and achieving the objective to protect at least 30% of our land and seascapes by 2030. We will work to ratify the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). We encourage Members States to adopt the resolution on strengthening ocean and seas governance to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution.

In addition to marine conservation, Ghana places importance on promoting animal welfare based on its linkages with wildlife protection efforts and sustainable development. This led us to co-sponsor the resolution on Animal welfare–environment–sustainable development nexus at UNEA 5.2 (Resolution 5/1), that requested the Executive Director to produce a report, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health, on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development by analysing and establishing the relationship between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development.

Air pollution remains a significant challenge, particularly in urban areas. Ghana is committed to reducing air pollution through the continuous implementation of clean energy initiatives, promoting sustainable transportation systems, and enforcing regulations to limit harmful emissions.

One of our key priorities is the reduction of plastic pollution, which poses a significant threat to human and marine lives and ecosystems. Through comprehensive policies, public awareness campaigns, and investment in waste management infrastructure, we are striving to minimize the use of single-use plastics and promote a circular economy that prioritizes recycling and resource recovery.

At the heart of our efforts is a deep sense of responsibility to our planet and to each other. In this regard, Ghana stands ready to collaborate with all Member States and international partners to advance our shared environmental goals and to forge a path towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

In conclusion, I encourage us all to seize the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to environmental protection, accelerate our efforts in the fight against climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss and to embrace the spirit of unity and collaboration. We need to work tirelessly together to build a greener, more sustainable future for our citizens and future generations, because Mr. President, we need no further reminder that we have **one planet and therefore must handle it with utmost care.**

I thank you.