STATEMENT BY DR. KWAKU AFRIYIE (MP) HON. MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (VIRTUAL, UN), 5TH – 6TH MAY, 2022

President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile,

Co-chairs of the STI forum, Mr Kennedy Godfrey Gastorn, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations,

Honourable Ministers herein present,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very honoured to be invited to participate in this seventh annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, to deliver a statement. The theme for the forum, "Science, Technology and Innovation for building back better from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" could not have been more appropriate considering the impact of the pandemic on socio-economic development. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed lives, wreaked havoc to economies and disrupted livelihoods around the world. Here, in Ghana, we have not been spared. Statistics in Ghana, from the WHO shows that from 3rd January, 2020 to 14th April, 2022, there have been 161,114 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with 1,445 deaths.

But along with these challenges, COVID-19 has also revealed opportunities that could be seized to move the nation forward. Accordingly, Government has prepared the Ghana Covid-19 Alleviation and Revitalization of Enterprises Support (2020-2023) document, the "Care Programme" that sets out Government's approach to mitigating the health and economic challenges created by COVID-19.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will all agree with me that these developments have challenged our scientists to double their efforts in dealing with scientific and socio-cultural issues. It is in this vein, that Government through the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation is currently working on a framework and technology facilitation mechanism to mainstream

Science, Technology and Innovation in all the productive sectors of the Ghanaian Economy. Indeed, Ghana's Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, which is currently under review, articulates the application of Science, Technology and Innovation in all the sectors of the Ghanaian economy including agriculture, education, health, industry, energy, water and sanitation towards job creation.

Your Excellency,

There are on-going various initiatives such as promoting digital technologies for security and surveillance, and supporting multidisciplinary research into COVID-19 vaccines, strengthening STEM, implementation of 2017 UNESCO Recommendations on Science and Scientific Researchers in support of AfCFTA, digital innovation and agenda for a decade of innovation among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we look forward to continued partnerships in these areas and our commitment to the implementation of the recommendations and summary of outcomes from this forum.

Thank you.