

COMMENTS BY MR. RUDOLPH S. KUUZEGH, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT OF GHANA, DURING THE SESSION ON POLICY OPTION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to align itself to the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate from Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We share the observation made in the Chairman's negotiating text that the world will continue to depend on fossil fuels for decades to come as the major source of energy to meet our development needs. Among other concerns developing countries, especially non-oil producing countries have been those hardest hit by the skyrocketing price of oil over the years, ultimately impacting adversely on our drive towards achieving sustainable development.

As the G77 and China pointed out in their statement, the increasing demand, and I dare add the increasing high cost of oil, is exerting enormous pressure on the already limited resources of developing countries, particularly those from Africa, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Mr. Chairman,

The G77 and China is a grouping of developing countries, and we have majority of oil-producing countries as members of our group. How do we give a true meaning to the promotion of south-south cooperation for development if the cost of energy which is critical for sustainable development is beyond the reach of developing countries?

My delegation offers its unflinching support to calls for diversifying sources of energy and the need to devote attention to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, e.t.c. In this connection, Ghana has adopted a number of policies and measures to promote the development of renewable energy. Some of the measures are as follows:

- i) Portfolio Standard/Renewable Energy Quota (REQ). In this scenario a minimum share obligation of renewable energy is imposed on electric utilities, starting from 2010. The share of renewable technologies in total electricity generation has been assumed at 2% for 2010, progressively rising to 20% in 2030.
- ii) Public Benefit Fund (PBF). In this scenario, a fund is created through a levy on electricity transmission, which can be used for partly funding investment in renewable energy technologies up to one-third of the needed investment for wind and solar technologies for any enterprise. A flat rate levy per MWh on electricity transmission will be imposed.
- iii) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This analyses the possibility of deploying renewable energy technologies as Clean Development Mechanism projects under the Kyoto Protocol.

Notwithstanding these efforts, it is important to underscore that the technologies for renewable energy are still beyond the reach of many poor countries, in terms of access and affordability. In this light, my delegation is of the view that it will do a tremendous lot of good to the development aspirations of developing countries if the price of oil is also made affordable. Therefore while calling for technology transfer, we can in the meantime work on cost of fossil fuel to make it affordable to developing countries.

I thank you.