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**MINISTRY OF LANDS AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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Our Ref. No. FA.48/78/01

Your Ref. No.....



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

December 28, 2015.....

**PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
19 EAST 47<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017**

**FAX: 001212 751 6743**

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF11)**

We refer to letter No. UNGA/70, dated 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 and UNFF Note Verbale No. DESA -15/00819, dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and a follow-up Note verbale No. UNFF -15 – HMM-L-409, dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 on the above subject matter.

I am pleased to forward to you the attached paper as Ghana's views and proposals on matters referred to in paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 resolution.

We hope you will forward these inputs to the United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat for consideration.

Counting on your cooperation in such matters.

Yours faithfully,

**GIFTY BIYIRA MAHAMA (MRS)  
DIRECTOR, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION  
FOR: MINISTER**

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## MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Inputs from Ghana in response to Paragraph 44 of the UNFF11 Resolution 2015/33

### **Para. 44a. Replacement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Non-Legally Binding Instruments on all Types of Forests.**

1. In the context of the International Arrangements on Forests beyond 2015, Ghana fully supports the replacement of the MDGs with the SDGs in paragraph 1 (b) of the Non-legally Binding Instruments on all types of forests. This will provide a long-term perspective and commitment for the implementation of the NLBI as the SDGs now become the blue-print on the global development agenda.

### **Para. 44b. Strategic Plan for post 2015 International Arrangements on Forests (2017 – 2030)**

2. The Government of Ghana wishes to propose that the Strategic Plan should be called **"Strategic Master-Plan for Sustainable Forest Management (2017 – 2030)"**
3. The Strategic Master-Plan (SMP) should clearly provide a SWOT Analysis of the global forest environment and clearly identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) taking into consideration all past initiatives/interventions undertaken by various stakeholders under the framework of the UNFF.
4. The SMP should have a clear Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives, taking into consideration the existing Global Objectives of Forests and the SDGs.
5. The SMP should deal with the various functions of the forest – economic, social and environmental/ecological functions (that is watershed protection, soil erosion control and food security, shelter, energy, employment, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, temperature regulation etc). The relationship between climate change and forests should also be explained. This will require an effective Communication Plan to be able to raise public awareness of relevant issues and also on global forest governance systems and processes.
6. The plan should define specific actions to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (that is actions that will halt deforestation and forest

degradation). Various approaches to landscape restoration should also be highlighted and promoted.

7. The Plan should clearly define the sources of funding for SFM activities (global funds, international funds, local /national funds, private sector contributions) and also indicate means of accessing such funds. "Business as usual" should be avoided so that funds can really be made available, especially to developing countries to support SFM work at all levels of governance.
8. The Plan should have a set of indicators/targets to track progress at regular intervals of implementation. In this case a Global Results Framework will be desirable. AHEG meetings should focus on measuring progress on such indicators.
9. In developing the Strategic Plan, the Non-legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forest should be a major input for consideration. The NLBI is a useful framework for developing any strategic plan for SFM either at global level or at national level.

### **Quadrennial Plans (2017 – 2020)**

10. The quadrennial plans (2017 - 2020) should focus more on country-level programmes and regional/sub-regional level initiatives that promote collaboration and cooperation among various stakeholders in addressing cross-sectoral issues relating to sustainable forest management and attainment of the SDGs. Efforts should be made to identify potential financing sources for the Strategic Master-plan.