

DRAFT KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

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**GHANA UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND MINI-GRIDS SESSION OF THE 5TH MINI
GRID ACTION LEARNING EVENT JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF GHANA/WORLD BANK ESMAP/DFID/SREP
MOVENPICK AMBASSADOR HOTEL | ACCRA GHANA, JUNE 24-28, 2019**

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS FOR SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT : SUCCESS
FACTORS AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR GHANA**

Colleague Ministers here present,
The World Bank Country Director,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
All Protocol observed,

I deem it a great honour to deliver the keynote address for the
“Global Technical Conference on Minigrids” during the 5th Mini Grid
Action Learning Event and Summit.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Ghana, I wish to
extend a warm welcome to you all. I hope you will find time to enjoy
the warmth and hospitality of the Ghanaian people during your stay
here in Ghana.

I also wish to thank the World Bank and the other sponsors and
organizers for opting to make Ghana the destination of this
important event.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

In the last three decades, it has become more imperative for members of the international community to cooperate in a collective global effort to create a sustainable environment for the benefit of the current and future generations of people. This is against the backdrop of the recent evidence of threats posed by climate change due to global warming, and the recent financial crisis of 2008. We are informed by scientists that recent episodes of extreme temperature, for example the heat wave in India which led to some fatalities; the decrease in Greenland and Arctic ice sheets; sea level rise; and extended draughts, are all a result of human-induced climate change, in the pursuit of socio-economic aspirations. These events reinforce the fact that our collective destiny, and the need for collective responsibility to create a sustainable environment is crucial.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nation's agenda for Sustainable Development enjoins all member-states of the Global community to pursue the socio-economic aspirations of their peoples in a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable manner, and provides enough space for

members to own their goals and develop trackable national strategies towards achieving them.

Ghana took exemplary responsibility in the global effort towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals when it established a cross-Ministerial Technical Committee to incorporate sustainable development goals in its national planning and budgets, and subsequently established a high-level Ministerial Committee for SDG implementation in 2017.

Government in the same year, articulated the medium-term development aspirations of the Ghanaian people when it inaugurated the '*Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP), 2017-2024*'. The CPESDP outlines strategies for incorporating Ghana's commitments under the Global Sustainable Agenda, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21) in the national development agenda.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

As far back as 1989, Ghana initiated the preparation of the National Electrification Scheme (NES) as its principal policy to extend the reach of reliable electricity supply to all parts of the country over a 30-year period from 1990 to 2020, as an imperative for the realization of the socio economic development aspirations of its people. National Electrification Access was then about 23%, with rural

coverage of less than 5%. Today national electrification access stands at 85%, and Government has set a target of 90% by 2020.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The elaboration of a clear strategy and plan for electrification was a key factor that catalyzed support and enabled critical partnership with multilateral and bilateral organizations who provided low cost concessional financing and technical support towards Ghana's effort. Consequently organizations such as the World Bank, European Union, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) African Development Bank (AfDB), and many others have walked and continue to walk this journey with us. At this juncture, on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all our partners for standing by us, in our march towards universal access.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Since financing is such a crucial aspect of the electrification strategy, Government established a National Electrification Levy which ensured a steady flow of funds, though inadequate, for prosecuting its electrification agenda. Additional public funds, through annual budgetary allocations are made for NES implementation.

Furthermore, Government devised an innovative mechanism dubbed 'Self-Help Electrification Programme' (or SHEP) for drawing in private funds in a public –private partnership arrangement to increase the pace of electrification. SHEP allows communities within 20km of the medium voltage supply lines to be electrified ahead of their scheduled turn under the NES master plan, if they provide all their low voltage poles.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The commitment of political leadership from successive Governments to the implementation of the electrification policy is a crucial success factor which has led to prioritization of the allocation of financial resources and a results-oriented implementation approach.

Furthermore, the use of appropriate institutional arrangements that are relevant to the country context is a necessary factor for a successful program. In the Ghana case for example, the Ministry of Energy is the principal implementing institution.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Ghana promulgated its Renewable Energy Law (Act 832, 2011) in 2011, in line with its commitments to international treaties fostering

sustainable development, as well as in response to technological and market changes. Government intends to optimally utilize renewable energy technologies in its electrification drive as it focuses on the electrification of the last-mile, towards universal access.

I am reliably informed by the Energy Ministry that the last-mile would involve a significant number of communities with population less than 500, which are remotely located in challenging geographical areas. Government is however committed to investing all that is required to achieve universal access. In this regard, Government with support from the World Bank is currently working towards a Feasibility and Investment Planning Study to clearly define the strategic pathway and the required resources for electrifying the last-mile and achieving universal access.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the fact that universal access is an imperative for the realization of the development aspirations of any people. It is however incumbent on countries working towards universal electricity access to pursue their goals sustainably. It is my hope that the success factors shared from Ghana's experience will inspire and illuminate the effort being made by other countries to achieve universal access.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful conclusion to this important conference.