

STATEMENT BY GHANA ON THE FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF IRENA

Ghana is proud to be associated with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), particularly as one of the founding members to sign the Statute for its establishment.

Mr. Chairman, over 60% of Ghana's primary energy is from traditional biomass which though renewable, is not only unsustainable but associated with serious health and environmental hazards. We were therefore glad to note that the concerns of Ghana for IRENA to emphasize on activities that ensure sustainable use of traditional biomass in developing countries were effectively captured in the preparation of the Statute.

Furthermore Mr. Chairman, Ghana is happy to note that through IRENA, an integrated approach to the use of renewable energies will be developed for rural areas of developing countries where lack of infrastructure has been a major obstacle in ensuring modern energy supply.

We also appreciate the fact that IRENA will put in place a mechanism to stimulate and encourage research and deployment of renewable energy technologies to the benefit of developing countries like Ghana.

Finally, I wish to thank the governments of Germany, Spain and Denmark for spearheading this laudable initiative and can be assured of the full support of Ghana.