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UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

**Opening Remarks
by
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**at
the Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Green Economy in the Context of
Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication and Institutional and
Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development**

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Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted and honoured to be given this opportunity to moderate the Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and institutional and strategic framework for sustainable development. Dr. Kaudeh Yumkella sends his warm greetings to you and his sincere wish for the successful conduct of the debate today.

(1) It is no secret that our prevailing economic paradigm of the past 50 plus years based on resource-intensive growth fueled by fossil-based energy systems has resulted in widespread environmental damages.

(2) Over the past 50 years the world population has doubled. Very soon - I was told on October 31st - the humanity will reach 7 billion on this planet! At the same time, the world economy has quadrupled, benefiting hundreds of millions of people; in contrast, the world's ecosystem or natural capital assets that underpin livelihoods have degraded seriously. This is particularly true for the poor.

(3) According to the WB's report, which is quoted by ECA, the natural capital is accounting 25% of wealth creation in the poorest countries while in only 2% in the world's richest countries. It is true that Africa depends upon on natural resources, exporting of which has brought many African countries to a very high growth in some countries and relative high growth in African in general over the past decade. However it is also true, despite the fact that African nations are some of the fastest growing economies of the world, Africa continues to struggle with environmental degradation, poverty and low productivity and value addition. It is known that export of commodities and minerals has been attributable to the growth. But this income is highly volatile as it depends on the world price of commodities and cannot be sustained due to depleting natural capital and validity of price. The need for diversification is real in order to protect the natural capital, protect environment and make the economy sustainable. Resources based economy must be diversified and natural resources need to be processed. This is the reason why Ghanaian Africa' nascent industrialization has to be given boost. This issue was well elaborated by Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, H.E. Ayitrey.

(4) Obviously for industrialization we have to make sure that access to sustainable energy is provided for all of the world's population including Africa, while at the same time we need to drastically improve our energy efficiency along the entire energy value chain and to scale up the deployment of renewable energy as a share of the global energy mix.

(5) In this connection I am pleased to report to you that UNIDO in cooperation with its UN Energy Partners is leading the launch of a major pioneering initiative by the

Secretary- General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon on Sustainable Energy for All.

The Secretary-General's initiative seeks to achieve the goal of Sustainable Energy for All by catalyzing action among a broad array of partners to help meet three interlinked global targets by 2030:

- Achieving universal access to modern energy services;
- Doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency;
- Doubling the share of renewable energy in the world's energy mix.

(6) In response to this challenge, UNIDO aims at transforming the industrial sector in the following ways: employing resource-efficient processes -and technologies (greening of industries), and increasing the share of green goods, jobs and services in the economy (creating green industries).

(7) Ladies and Gentlemen, moving towards Green Economy will require collaborative efforts of governments, civil society and business and industry leaders. It will take the active engagement of all sectors of society: the private sector, local communities, civil society, business and industry, international organizations.

(8) International organizations stand to play a special role in creating enabling conditions and supportive environments to ensure full engagement of developing countries in greening their industrialization process. The development of national implementation plans and roadmaps for implementation of green industry and resource efficiency policies should be part of our agenda today.

(9) It is my hope that this introduction provides you with sufficient food for thought and information to start the panel debate. This panel will focus on discussing Africa's transition to Green Economy.

- How can Green Economy contribute to the developmental aspirations of Africa?
- What are the Opportunities and Concerns?
- What is the role of governments, civil society, private sector and business and industry?
- What is the role of international cooperation? How can UN help?
- What institutions are needed to be developed and strengthened to support the transition?

My panelists today are ...

Suggest that we start with the short presentations of each panelist. We will take your questions and comments afterwards.

It is my pleasure to invite H.E. .. Mr... to take the floor.