**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR AT THE MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLES OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION - 2019, ON ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK: BENEFITS OF COHERENCE AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND ON 15TH MAY, 2019**

Co-chairs

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you warm greetings from the people of Ghana.

I am very honoured to be part of this Global Ministerial Roundtable that seeks to highlight the progress, share experiences, address key challenges and make recommendations for accelerating the achievements of the Sendai Framework targets in coherence with a holistic approach to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, vis-à-vis our collective actions on Climate Change.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaption rank high and thus, prioritized in the developmental agenda of Ghana.

Disaster Risk Reduction is a prerequisite and a guarantee for the sustainable development. Consequently, we cannot but to totally endorse and support Disaster Risk Reduction interventions through our local, national and international engagements. The Government of Ghana in its mission to build the country’s resilience has taken concrete steps on Disaster Risk Reduction as we seek to achieve the implementation prescriptions of the Sendai Framework and in consistency with achieving the agenda 2030. We of Ghana realize the importance building synergy among DRR, Climate Change, and also in the implementation of Sendai Framework and the SDGs. Deriving such synergies will surely maximize the benefits or gains in DRR, Climate Change interventions and implementation of Sendai Framework and SDGs. Treating DRR and Climate Change interventions as developmental constructs will help build the pillars on which SDG interventions will stand.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ghana has in the past few months experienced a sequence of earth tremors that threatens the lives of tens of thousands and many critical infrastructure in Accra the capital and other parts of Southern Ghana. This situation has called the President of Ghana to proactively task the Ministry of the Interior to urgently take steps that will lead to the preparation of a National Earthquake Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness Plan to help minimize the impact of any possible earthquake in the country. Any such measures are being looked at in the light of the overall national development agenda.

The frequency and intensity of floods in Ghana is being exacerbated by the impact of Climate Change. And the attendant loss of human lives, critical infrastructure, vast expands of crop farms and other properties have assumed startling dimensions. The dire flooding situation threatens to derail the developmental progress of my country.

This is why the Government of Ghana has adopted a paradigm shift from a reactive approach to a concerted and an all-inclusive stakeholder involvement approach to DRR at the national, regional and local levels; with the goal of substantially reducing the losses of human lives and the affected population, as well as the other economic losses. This is in sync with the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which focuses on the substantial reduction in disaster mortality, the number of affected people and direct economic loss by 2030.

Co-chairs, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, poverty has a correlative effect on the vulnerability of a people to disasters. We the people of Ghana are humble to concede that a sizeable number of our population falls within the poverty bracket. It therefore makes our nation susceptible to the effects of earthquake and other hazards as poverty has had effects on the built environment in terms of location, constructional quality and design.

Addressing the issue of poverty therefore is a positive DRR measure and a vehicle towards sustainable development.

We are ever ready to share and learn from the experiences of other nations, and, the global best practices; as the country seeks to build resilience for sustainable development.

Thank you.

God bless us all.