**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DR. EDWARD KOFI OMANE BOAMAH, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE COP 16 OF THE UNFCCC ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2010 IN CANCUN, MEXICO**

**Madam President,**
**Excellencies,**
**Distinguished Delegates,**
**Members of the Press,**
**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

We thank the Government and the people of Mexico for the warm hospitality.

The world, represented by the delegates to this year's Conference of Parties, have two options which are mutually exclusive and exhaustive - to respect science or to disrespect science.

The overwhelming evidence in our respective countries and regions says it all. Climate change presents serious global risks, and demands an urgent global response. Over the last 200 years, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 30 per cent, mainly due to burning of fossil fuels, hence decreasing the earth's albedo.

Climate manifestations in the form of floods, droughts, water scarcity, food insecurity, and rise in sea levels, cyclones and hurricanes have clearly demonstrated the increasing vulnerability of mankind to climate change. Africa is the most affected.

In 2007, our country Ghana, as documented in our discussion paper, GHANA GOES FOR GREEN GROWTH, experienced a 112mm of rainfall in twenty four hours just in one town in the northern region. Same year, the floods in the northern region attacked development, culminating in the morbidity of 317,000 people, 1000km of roads destroyed, 210 schools and 45 health facilities damaged. 630 drinking water facilities were damaged or contaminated. As we were preparing the GHANA GOES FOR GREEN GROWTH document this year, once again thousands of people were affected by floods in the northern region. 30 human beings died.

Ghana like many other African countries is not only experiencing recurrent floods but also recurrent droughts. The pattern is certainly uncertain in frequency, timing and intensity. It can best be described as irregularly irregular.

Ghana's expectation at this sixteenth session (COP 16) is that decisions reached should be consistent with the building blocks we set out to work with under the Bali Action Plan in 2007.

Success in Cancun is still possible if we can muster the needed political will and subsequently, make compromises in the critical areas of the negotiations. We have barely 36 hours to be achievers. This is not the time to look for winners and losers.

Here in Cancun, we must strive to reach a deal to launch palpable actions on adaptation, technology transfer, REDD+, mitigation and endeavour to create a new fund for long-term climate change financing.

This new fund must respect the principles of 'new and additional' funds, must be visible, verifiable and must be highly

allergic to double counting. It must be very thick on Adaptation and thin on Mitigation. The fund must be accessible.

We need to surmount monumental challenges to secure the future of the Kyoto Protocol, particularly the second commitment period. We must not replace the Kyoto Protocol with the Copenhagen Accord. The former is binding, the latter is not.

Cancun might not be able to provide all the answers we expect but Cancun can serve as the springboard for future progress in the negotiations.

Thank you.