

Address by H.E. Mr William Hanna, Ambassador of the European Union on the occasion of the launch of the new European Partners Cooperation Strategy 2017/2020 and the signing of Financing Agreements worth €175 million, Accra, 30 January 2018

- Honourable Minister of Finance;
 - European Ambassadors and partners;
 - Distinguished invited guests;
 - Ladies and gentlemen;
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- I am happy to be here today and to address you, both on behalf of European Partners' as we launch the **European Joint Co-operation Strategy**, and as EU Ambassador as we sign **€175 million** worth of new Financing Agreements.
 - 10 years ago, at **the EU-Africa summit in Lisbon**, the EU and Africa resolved to build a new strategic political partnership for the future, overcoming the traditional donor-recipient relationship, and building on common values and goals in our pursuit of peace and stability, democracy and rule of law, progress and development.
 - One year after, we met here in Accra at the **Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness** alongside many other countries and development partners. We committed to a relationship where developing countries determine their own development strategies and policies, and partners use developing countries' own systems to support them, as well as improving coordination amongst them.
 - So the efforts to go **Beyond Aid** do not come out of the blue. They are part of a long term effort to improve the way we work together. And here today in Accra we see a new determination by the Government to take the lead, to set the vision. The **Ghana Beyond Aid** agenda is one we share and which has never been more important.

- As we know, Ghana's development co-operation landscape is changing. Net ODA disbursements to Ghana as a percentage of its Gross National Income fell from 16.3% in 2004 to 2.2% in 2013, a significant downward trend.
- This fall in ODA is due to **positive changes in Ghana's income status**, as well as a changing political orientation of many development actors, which call for more use of innovative financing instruments and an increased role for the private sector.
- The **Joint Co-operation Strategy 2017-2020**, entitled **European Partners Working Together in Ghana**, is the product of much hard work and commitment.
- In this strategy, the EU, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have come together, and jointly commit a **€1.25 billion envelope** to supporting the priorities and objectives identified by the Government of Ghana in the Long-Term National Development Plan.
- Today we jointly focus on **supporting two of Ghana's key objectives** (i) to build an industrialised, inclusive and resilient economy, and (ii) to build effective, efficient and dynamic institutions.
- We make a decisive shift today, away from a traditional aid approach to a more **comprehensive** approach, including trade, competitiveness, and focussing also on global issues such as migration and climate change.
- We focus more than ever before on jobs and investment. This was the theme of the recent **EU/AU summit in Abidjan**.
- And I think it was significant that last week we held the 1st **Economic Partnership Agreement** steering committee. That Agreement is already in force, and it seeks to create jobs and increase exports for Ghana, taking advantage of the already existing 100% duty free access for all goods, agricultural and industrial.

- As we together implement the European Partners Joint Cooperation Strategy, **aid effectiveness** will improve and **transaction costs** for the Government of Ghana will reduce, and we will be fully aligned with Ghana's vision for the future
- Minister, I commend this strategy to you. For those of us, like myself who have been involved in coordination between development partners for many years, today is an historic occasion.
- This strategy outlines the future, but what are we doing today? We are not just talking about good intentions – great expectations. When we make commitments, we must deliver on them and translate them into action.
- So today, to show that we mean business, the EU signs agreements with Ghana worth **€175 million** that's almost a billion Ghanaian cedi, for 4 wide-reaching and exciting programmes that we will implement all over the country during the next 7 years.
- Through our new **Agriculture** programme, we will focus on bringing economic growth to the household level, by providing access to productive infrastructure – including feeder roads and dams in the Upper West region.
- Through our new **Decentralisation** programme, we will support the government in building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and implement the Ghanaian National Decentralisation Policy Framework.
- In our **Climate Change** project, we will promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in rural, agricultural communities by implementing climate adaptation and mitigation practices in 200 communities.
- And in our 4th project, we will help unleash Ghana's impressive economic potential through support for better **Public Financial Management** and a successful implementation of the **Economic Partnership Agreement**.

- In a nutshell, we will contribute to Ghana's achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals**, and help Ghana sustain a path of inclusive, sustainable economic growth.
- This is the **path that leads Ghana Beyond Aid**, a path on which we are proud to be partners. We look forward to continued excellent cooperation between the European Development partners and Ghana. Thank you.