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INTERVENTION BY

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ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

*ADDRESSING PROGRESS AND ASSESSING GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS OF THE COPENHAGEN
DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS PROGRAMME OF
ACTION, AND GIVING MOMENTUM TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

5th November 2025 (10.00 am)
Roundtable Room, Qatar National Convention Centre
Doha

I thank you for giving me the floor.

Ghana is pleased to participate in this Round Table discussion.

Thirty years after the Copenhagen Declaration, the world has made important gains. Poverty has declined, access to education and healthcare has expanded, and social protection systems are stronger. Yet, progress has not been evenly shared. Inequality, insecurity, and limited trust in institutions continue to undermine social cohesion and stall development.

Ghana's experience reflects both the progress achieved and the challenges that persist. Guided by Copenhagen's three core pillars; poverty eradication, productive employment, and social inclusion, we have expanded opportunity through national flagship programmes such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), the School Feeding Programme, Free Senior High School, and the National Health Insurance Scheme. We have supported women run business with soft loans through the provision of sustainable microfinance, small loans and business services.

This year, Ghana enacted the National Social Protection Act (Act 1148), our first comprehensive law to coordinate, sustain, and legally safeguard all social protection interventions. This framework transforms social protection from a policy choice into a right, anchoring inclusion and resilience at the centre of development.

However, significant gaps remain. **First**, regional and gender inequalities persist, especially in rural and northern communities. **Second**, the dominance of informal employment limits decent work and social security. **Third**, constrained fiscal space and rising debt burdens threaten the sustainability of social investments.

To address these challenges, Ghana is linking social protection with economic opportunities through youth and women employment initiatives, which are helping young people transition to decent work. The Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024, the establishment of a new Ministry for Youth Development and Empowerment, and Free Tertiary Education for Persons with Disability are advancing equality, participation, and trust in governance. The review of the Persons

with Disabilities Act 2006 (Act 715) will further strengthen the participation of persons with disability in our national development

National action alone is not enough. The outcome of our meeting in Doha must remind us that the true measure of progress lies in sustained global solidarity. Ghana, therefore, calls for predictable and equitable financing for social development, fair debt treatment for developing countries, and renewed multilateral commitment to protect social spending and invest in people.

In this final decade of the 2030 Agenda, Ghana stands ready to reaffirm its commitment to the outcome of the 2nd World Summit on Social Development and will continue to translate words into action, protect social investment, and ensure that no one is left behind. Let us move from declarations to delivery, from promises to people, building a world defined by shared prosperity, social justice, and human dignity for all.

Thank you.