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**CVF Leaders Meeting on a New Era of Accountability:
An Adaptation Package, Debt Solutions, and Health Resilience for Vulnerable Nations**

*24 September 2025, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I want to join my colleagues to thank Barbados and the CVF-V20 Secretariat for convening this important meeting. I commend you, Madam, the Prime Minister, for your strong leadership, and to reaffirm that Ghana's commitment to advancing the shared goals of the Climate Vulnerable Forum is high.

We are gathered here as countries tightly bound together by the same urgent reality, and that is the climate crisis. Last year alone, in Ghana, floods displaced nearly 40,000 people; and according to the World Bank Country Climate report, in the year 2020, alone, Ghana lost US\$195 million due to floods and droughts.

But yet, even with these rising waters and rainfalls, Ghana is making an effort as the immediate past president of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the host of CVF-V20 headquarters. We are committed to driving solutions that connect climate resilience with debt sustainability. To that end, Ghana is updating its Climate Prosperity Plan, a fully-costed country-led strategy to deliver resilience and green growth. These plans are investment roadmaps designed to align climate, development, technology, and nature to unlock prosperity for our people.

Your Excellencies, progress cannot be built on the quicksand of debt. Let me be clear, this is not just an African challenge, from Asia to the Pacific, from the Caribbean to Latin America, vulnerable countries are weighed down by a heavy debt burden. Essential services such as education, resilient infrastructure, health, and social protection are being squeezed.

Amidst these constraints, innovation is making a difference. Through the Global Shield against Climate Risk, Ghana secured its first sovereign climate risk insurance in 2024 within weeks of drought. Payouts of nearly US\$3 million were delivered to affected communities, a proof of preparedness and partnership that certainly saved life.

Looking ahead, Ghana strongly supports CVF-V20 initiatives that we endorse using the ICJ Landmark Advisory Opinion to boost our ambition and accountability. We are committed to shaping the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap.

We advocate for inclusive debt solutions, including climate resilient debt-pause clauses to create fiscal space. We call for scaled up support to adaptation efforts, especially climate-resilient health systems.

We call multilateral development banks to provide truly concessional and long-term financing with maturities of up to 50 years for resilience. We call on partners to back the national Climate Prosperity Plans that mobilize private capital and de-risk green investment.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Ghana's message is simple. I want to do that on behalf of His Excellency, John Dramani Mahama, the President of the Republic of Ghana, and the people of Ghana. The climate crisis is real, but so is our resolve. We must match solidarity with innovation and couple ambitions with action to secure a more resilient, more prosperous future for all nations like ours on the frontlines of this crisis.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you for this opportunity.

MR. ISSIFU SEIDU

Minister of State in charge of Climate Change and Sustainability
Republic of Ghana