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Fourth CVF Leaders Meeting: Development Reset and Cooperation

*23 September 2025, 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City*

Ambassador Thompson; Prime Minister of Barbados, Her Excellency Mia Mottley; Excellencies, heads of state and government; Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa; fellow Troika members; colleagues; friends: good afternoon.

I am honoured to speak today on behalf of my President, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, in our capacity as a member of the Troika. Our role is to help sustain continuity of this Forum's leadership, from the term Ghana held, through the term Barbados now holds, to the term that lies ahead.

Two years ago, Ghana passed this presidency to Barbados with confidence. That confidence has been vindicated. Prime Minister Mottley's leadership has taken us from Washington to Vienna to New York: from a proposition about how development finance could work differently, to the Vulnerability to Viability Compact itself, and now to a Lifeline Fund within reach of operational reality. This is not incremental progress; it is the development reset we set ourselves to achieve. For this reason, Ghana respectfully requests that Barbados extend its presidency for a further year.

The V2V Compact's White Paper is still to be launched in Bangkok. The Lifeline Fund still needs founding members. This work deserves continuity of leadership, not a transition at its most delicate stage. At the same time, continuity must not mean delay elsewhere. The Forum's strength has always come from its rotation across regions, and Ghana, therefore, calls on our colleagues in Asia and the Pacific to signal their interest in holding the next CVF-V20 Presidency. We make this call not to hasten Barbados' departure, but to ensure that when the handover comes, it is prepared, deliberate, and owned by the region stepping forward.

Ghana also welcomes former President Carlos Alvarado of Costa Rica as our second Secretary-General. His experience leading a nation through its own climate and development transition, and his standing across multilateral institutions, will strengthen the Secretariat as it moves the V2V Compact and the Lifeline Fund from architecture to delivery.

Excellencies, Ghana continues to advance its own Climate Prosperity Plan and country platform, and we stand ready to support the Secretariat as it works with other member states on execution. The measure of this reset will not be the declarations we adopt today, but the water systems, schools, hospitals, and [finances] delivered across our membership.

On behalf of His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, Ghana fully supports the Declaration before us. I thank you very much.

H.E. SEIDU ISSIFU

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