

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**UG-CCReS HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

ADDRESS BY:

**PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO
VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 2025

ALISA HOTEL

ACCRA

- *H.E. Ms. Myriam Montrat, Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana*
- *H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat & Chairperson for this Policy Dialogue*
- *Hon. Alhaji Baba Seidu Issifu, Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability*
- *Ms. Rica Rwigamba, Country Director, Mastercard Foundation Ghana*
- *Prof. Gordon Awandare, Programme Director, University of Ghana Collaborative on Climate Resilience and Sustainability (UG-CReS) & Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs)*
- *Distinguished speakers,*
- *Conveners of this Forum*
- *Invited Guest*
- *ladies and gentlemen*

I am excited to participate in this high-level policy dialogue on a topic that is critical not only for the future of our planet, but also for the well-being and prosperity of all people — *climate resilience and sustainability*.

As a leading university in Africa, the University of Ghana has been committed to advancing scientific research and spearheading positive change in climate action through the work of individual researchers and students across our four colleges as well as specific units such as the Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies and Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies, with the objective

of enhancing the capacity of individuals and institutions through education, training and innovative research to address climate change and sustainability issues.

The University of Ghana prioritises interdisciplinary and collaborative research that addresses the most pressing issues of our time. We are also committed to attracting and supporting elite researchers who push the boundaries of knowledge and come out with innovations to create a better world for us all. This relates to our second Strategic Priority area which is *Impactful Research*.

In alignment to this, the University of Ghana Collaborative on Climate Resilience and Sustainability (UG-CCReS) programme has been developed to promote interdisciplinary research, capacity building, entrepreneurship, innovation and engagement on issues of climate resilience and sustainability. This programme seeks to:

1. Establish high quality research expertise through training and capacity building.
2. Promote high quality research output through Climate Resilience Research Labs.
3. Spur climate resilience by increasing innovation and entrepreneurship.
4. Catalyze change through networks, policy and learning.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you are all aware, our planet is experiencing the tangible effects of climate change across the globe—extreme weather events, rising sea levels, biodiversity loss, threats to food and water security and health risks among others. Yet, in the face of these challenges, we also have an extraordinary opportunity to build a resilient future. The solutions to these challenges exist, but they require innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to continuous learning and adaptation.

A platform such as this to convene a meeting among key stakeholders and actors (governmental and non-governmental) to discuss strategies to mitigate the effect of climate change on vulnerable groups is very crucial.

Climate change and its related problems must be of grave concern to all of us because of its far-reaching impact. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 explicitly addresses climate action with a call to take urgent measures to combat climate change and its impact.

This high-level policy dialogue platform therefore provides a fine opportunity to project the “African voice” towards the achievement of this SDG.

Before I take my seat, I would like to acknowledge the instrumental support and collaboration of the Mastercard Foundation towards this project. We appreciate your support in partnering the University for this global cause. In alignment with the University's fourth Strategic Priority on *Engagement and Partnerships*, the

University of Ghana will continue to proactively explore and engage external partners at the local, national and international level to address global challenges.

Let us remember, our plant is our future and climate issues affect all of us. I hope that through this platform, we will resolve to take decisive actions to promote climate resilience and sustainability. I look forward to pragmatic solutions that will filter into global policies adopted to combat climate change and its devastating impact especially on vulnerable groups.

Thank you.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

(February 28, 2025)