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أمام

القمة العربية الأفريقية الثالثة

دولة الكويت: 19 - 20 نوفمبر 2013

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STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

HIS EXCELLENCY K. B. AMISSAH-ARTHUR

AT THE

THIRD AFRICA-ARAB SUMMIT

KUWAIT CITY, STATE OF KUWAIT

ON

19th – 20th NOVEMBER 2013

Your Highness, the Emir of the State of Kuwait,
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al Jaber Al-Sabah,

Your Excellencies Heads of State and
Government,

Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Heads of
Delegations,

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Commission
of the African Union,

Your Excellency the Secretary-General of the
League of Arab States,

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish to begin by conveying to Your Highness and Your Excellencies, fraternal greetings from His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, who regrets his inability, for unavoidable reasons, to personally join you here today.

He has asked me to re-assure you of his personal commitment to the objectives of the Africa-Arab Partnership for Development and Social Progress.

Permit me, Your Highness, to express my delegation's appreciation of the hospitality extended to us and the excellent facilities provided by the Government and people of the State of Kuwait.

My delegation also extends its gratitude to the team of facilitators who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the summit.

Your Excellencies,

Three years ago, African and Arab leaders met in the State of Libya for a follow-up summit, thirty-three years after the first. That second meeting was an attempt to make up for missed opportunities for fruitful co-operation between the two Regions.

A frank review of progress after the last summit will suggest that its benefits are yet to manifest.

Africa and the Arab world have over one billion people, constituting about 8 per cent of the global population. Together, we account for 24 per cent of the world's GDP.

Our population, geographical location, natural resources, our labour force and our market provide the critical requirements for industrial development.

What is required is the finance to bridge the infrastructural gap and to improve the capacity of

our youth through instruction in science and technology.

It is the challenge of improving our capacity that should strengthen our resolve to produce concrete results after this summit.

We must definitely go beyond the generalities that have characterized our multilateral engagements. For this reason, Ghana welcomes the effort that has been made to identify institutions and mechanisms and assign them specific roles.

If the impact of our co-operative endeavor is felt throughout our two Regions, it will enable us to rally our populations solidly behind us.

Your Highness, The agreed framework for co-operation and the priorities we have identified reflect the most urgent challenges we face.

Food security, trade facilitation, protecting the environment and deepening our cultural links are all essential elements for a meaningful strategic partnership.

However it cannot be denied that it is only through determined effort to implement the decisions we have taken that we will succeed in realizing the full potential of this partnership and contribute to our survival and prosperity.

Ghana is ready to work with all members of this partnership to realize these shared objectives.

Ghana commends the State of Kuwait for the sense of urgency in sustaining the momentum of Africa-Arab co-operation by organizing and hosting this third Summit.

We thank Your Royal Highness for providing us with this opportunity to exchange views and

renew our cherished ties of friendship and co-operation.

Our first President, Kwame Nkrumah, a staunch advocate of African-Arab co-operation, once observed that: "while the Sahara once divided us, today it unites us". This is true in 2013 even more than it was in the 1960s.

Thank you