

Statement by Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse to the 2007 Consultative Group

Madame President [Mary Robinson] - so nice to see you in Accra. I want to recognize you specially, and I want to recognize you on behalf of all the women here, but equally for the men as well, because you were president of a whole country, not just of women. You are very welcome here to Ghana - it is a joy to see you looking so well.

Ministers,
Members of Parliament,
Excellencies of the diplomatic corps,
Development partners,
Civil society - I'm sure you are here in your numbers,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
and basically dear friends:

I want to thank you so much for the time you have devoted to the agenda "Ghana". I know that since yesterday your minds have been focused on our country, and I know that at the end of today's deliberations, a communiqué will come out that will hopefully move our country a few notches up. I'd like us to consider this afternoon's deliberations also within that context.

We're going to talk about the GPRS II which focuses on human resource development, with a goal to ensure that we have a knowledge-based society but a society which is also healthy and a society, which I dare to say, is happy. Because the human resource, I think, is the most important ingredient for development. So especially for development partners, I want to commend the emphasis you have given to the social sectors in this regard. At the end of the day, this is what touches lives and this is what leads to an improvement of quality of life. I hope that this afternoon is going to be about finding an opportunity to really upscale assistance, because obviously, if you look at the condition of Ghana, we need a lot more. Thank God that we struck oil yesterday.

I'd just like to say, though, that the commitments have been made for Africa at the highest level, and therefore many times, we have expected that this would translate for our countries in a very tangible manner. Many times the delivery has not lived up to expectations. So from what we hear this afternoon, my hope is that there is going to be a lot more that will be done for Ghana by development partners. We accept our responsibility, we author our own destiny, but I'd like to think that as partners, truly, it's going to be delivery, delivery, delivery. We'll add up the figures when we get out of this room!

Thank you very much for your attention, and I ask for your cooperation, even as I chair this meeting. Thank you.