

NATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO UNVEIL GHANA'S COP31 PREPARATIONS

OFFICIAL OPENING REMARKS

Prof. Nana Ama Browne Klutse

Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

Distinguished Minister, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of our Development Partners, Members of the Media, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this important national press conference as we officially unveil Ghana's preparations towards the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Today's press conference provides an important platform to communicate Ghana's preparedness, showcase our national priorities, introduce our lead negotiators, and present the strategic direction that will guide our engagement at COP31. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate Ghana's commitment to strengthening climate diplomacy and ensuring that our national interests and development priorities are effectively represented in international climate negotiations.

A significant milestone in this journey has been the establishment of the Ghana National Roster of Experts on Climate Negotiations, which was officially launched in October 2025. The Roster was established to strengthen Ghana's institutional and technical capacity for climate negotiations, promote continuity and knowledge management, and ensure that our negotiating positions are informed by sound technical expertise, research and national priorities. It also provides a structured platform for bringing together experts across various thematic areas of climate negotiations.

Since its establishment, the Roster has recorded important milestones. Notably, it has facilitated the development of Ghana's first SB46 Report, strengthening our documentation, assessment and engagement in the international climate negotiation process. The Roster has also spearheaded the development of the Black Star Position Document, an important strategic instrument that articulates Ghana's positions across the various thematic areas of climate negotiations. This document will serve as a key guide for our lead negotiators as they engage in the negotiations at COP31, ensuring that our interventions are coordinated, consistent and firmly anchored in Ghana's national interests and development priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, beyond these achievements, we are equally conscious of the need to ensure the continuity, institutional sustainability and long-term impact of the National Roster. To this end, the Environmental Protection Authority, beginning next year, will introduce the National COP Negotiators Programme.

This programme will provide structured training and capacity development for climate negotiators and national delegates participating in the Conferences of the Parties under the three Rio

Conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Through this initiative, we intend to build a sustainable pipeline of technically competent negotiators, strengthen institutional memory, facilitate knowledge transfer between experienced and emerging negotiators, and ensure that Ghana maintains a well-prepared delegation capable of effectively advancing its national interests across the three conventions. This is our commitment to moving beyond individual participation towards building a strong, coordinated and enduring national climate and environmental negotiation capacity.

Distinguished guests, as we look towards COP31, our ambition is not merely to participate in the negotiations but to participate meaningfully, influence outcomes and advance Ghana's climate and development priorities. We must ensure that our national positions are clearly articulated, our negotiating teams are adequately prepared, and our diplomatic engagements are strategic and purposeful.

Today, we will also formally introduce Ghana's lead negotiators for COP31 and unveil the Black Star Position Document, which will provide the strategic framework for our engagement across the different negotiation thematic areas. We will further highlight Ghana's preparations and our broader commitment to contributing to global climate action.

I wish to commend the members of the National Roster of Experts on Climate Negotiations, our lead negotiators, the Ministry responsible for Environment, Science and Technology, our development partners and all stakeholders who have contributed to this process. Your commitment and technical contributions continue to strengthen Ghana's voice in international climate diplomacy.

I also wish to acknowledge the important role of the media in communicating Ghana's climate priorities, shaping public understanding and holding stakeholders accountable. We count on your partnership to ensure that Ghana's preparations and contributions towards COP31 receive the visibility and public engagement they deserve.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ghana is ready to engage, Ghana is ready to lead, and Ghana is ready to make its voice count.

Once again, thank you for joining us, I look forward to a productive engagement.

Thank you, and God bless us all.