STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH OF GHANA
HON. KWAKU AGYEMAN-MANU
ON
“GHANA’S COVID 19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE”

AT
THE 73RD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
MAY, 2020
Mr. President

I wish to join earlier speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the 73rd World Health Assembly, the first ever meeting of the Assembly to be held virtually. I also wish to commend the Director General (Dr. Tedros) for his detailed and instructive address on how the WHO is coordinating global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ghana’s National Response is an All-of-Government Approach based on our Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Roadmap with a well-defined integrated governance structure chaired by His Excellency the President.

Underpinning the COVID-19 Response Plan are six-point strategic objectives:

- Limit and Stop Importation of Cases by mandatory quarantine and border control measures
- Detect and contain cases by identification, testing and isolation of cases, which will allow for effective containment
- Slowdown Community Spread; by putting social distancing measures in place to slow down spread of virus
- Care of the Sick; by preparation to provide healthcare and appropriate health interventions at all levels
- Minimize disruption to the social and economic life of Ghanaians, especially the vulnerable
- Domestic Capacity & Self-Reliance: Increase the domestic capacity of all sectors to deal with existing and future shocks, in line with government’s policy of Ghana Beyond Aid.

Since Ghana recorded its index case on March, 12, 2020, a total of 5,638 cases have been confirmed with 1460 recoveries and 28 deaths as of May, 17, 2020. The enhanced testing strategy (currently about 165,000 tests) has proven to be effective.

Ghanaian scientists are working to determine the strains circulating in Ghana to inform treatment options.

On global response to the pandemic:

- Ghana affirms the importance of multilateral cooperation and global solidarity.
- We call for scale-up of Research and Development for medicines, therapeutics, and vaccines to address supply constraints.
- We also affirm the central role of WHO in leading and coordinating global response to the pandemic.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Ghana will continue to enhance the tracing, testing and treatment strategy for COVID-19 cases whilst striving to achieve UHC and “leave no-one behind”.

I thank you for your kind attention.