



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

7 October 1999

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
FLT.LT.JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GHANA

It is in recognition of the importance of probity, accountability and good governance to national and global progress that Ghana is sending a high-powered delegation to participate in the International Conference on Anti-Corruption in Durban, South Africa.

Corruption is wrong and immoral wherever it may occur. But for developing countries it is even more reprehensible because it deprives people who are struggling to emerge from poverty of already scarce resources needed to fight disease, ignorance and hunger.

Since 1979 I have been committed to the reduction of corruption in all facets of Ghanaian society and to promoting integrity in the management of public affairs. Human nature being what it is, no single effort can defeat corruption. Only sustained and consistent vigilance by all stakeholders in a better society can have a lasting effect.

I therefore welcome the growing international focus on the promotion of ethics, integrity and accountability represented by this important Conference. The Government of Ghana stands ready to collaborate with national agencies, the private sector, civil society and the international community to curb this canker and foster equitable development.

I wish the Conference fruitful deliberations.

FLT. LT. JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF GHANA