

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

16th Session of the UNCTAD Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
Geneva, 31 August - 4 September 2026

- Thank you, Excellency Mr. President, for giving me the floor
- Acting Secretary-General,
- Excellencies,
- Distinguished Delegates,

1. The delegation of Ghana congratulates you, Mr. President, and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can count Ghana's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

2. Ghana aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the African Group. We will therefore focus our remarks on few issues of importance from our national perspective.

3. We commend UNCTAD for the World Investment Report 2026 and the other meeting documents. The World Investment Report provides a timely assessment of the increasingly complex global investment environment shaped by geopolitical tensions, trade policy uncertainty, technological change and Industrial Policy and global supply-chain reconfiguration. While global foreign direct investment recovered in 2025, the recovery remains uneven and increasingly concentrated across countries, sectors and projects.

4. Africa's picture presents both opportunity and challenges. The continent attracted approximately US\$70 billion in FDI in 2025, demonstrating its continued attractiveness as an investment destination. The challenge before us is therefore not simply to attract more investment, but to ensure that the investment generates broader and more sustainable benefits.

5. This is also Ghana's approach. We seek investment that creates decent jobs, facilitates technology and knowledge transfer, develops skills, promotes value addition, strengthens domestic enterprises and connects our economy more effectively to regional and global value chains. For Ghana, therefore, the quality and development impact of investment are as important as its volume.

6. It is against this background that Ghana has undertaken important step in reforms, with the enactment of the **Ghana Investment Promotion Authority Act, 2026 (Act 1173)**. The new legislation modernizes Ghana's investment framework and strengthens the country's approach to investment promotion, facilitation and retention. It expands the mandate of the investment promotion authority, strengthens support for Ghanaian enterprises, facilitates outward investment and provides a more responsive framework for attracting high-quality investment, including investment driven by technology, innovation, skills and knowledge.

7. Ghana also places importance on regional integration and sees the AfCFTA as central to our investment effort. AfCFTA provides an opportunity to overcome the limitations of fragmented national markets and to build larger and more competitive regional value chains. Ghana therefore seeks to position itself, together with the wider West African region, as an attractive location for manufacturing, agro-processing, logistics, digital services, and other value-adding activities that serve the continental market.

8. We see opportunities in agribusiness and the digital economy. As highlighted in the World Investment Report 2026, international investment in food agriculture increased significantly, reflecting growing interest in food security, agriculture processing, agri-logistics and climate-resilient production, while digital infrastructure and technology-intensive sectors remain one of the strongest areas of global investment growth. Developing countries must be supported to participate meaningfully in these emerging investment opportunities rather than remain primarily suppliers of raw materials.

9. Ghana therefore encourages UNCTAD to deepen technical assistance to developing countries in investment policy and facilitation, enterprise development, investment promotion and the building of productive capacities. Particular attention should be given to helping developing economies translate investment into stronger domestic enterprises, technological capabilities, regional value chains and sustainable employment.

10. Mr President, Our objective is clear: we seek investment that is competitive, responsible and development-oriented, and that does not merely enter our economies, but take roots, build productive capacity and contributes meaningfully to structural transformation and sustainable growth.

I thank you.