

**Opening remarks delivered by Prof. George Gyan-Baffour, Chairman
of the National Development Planning Commission at the Maiden
Development Coordination Meeting of NDPC and Directors of PPMD**

31st January 2023 @Mensvic Grand Hotel, East Legon

Senior Government Officials,

Chief Directors,

Directors and Deputies of MDAs

Representatives of Media Houses Present

Staff of the Commission

Ladies and Gentlemen

I warmly welcome you all to the maiden meeting on Development Coordination, being organized by the National Development Planning Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know coordination is a function of management which ensures that different departments and groups work in synchrony to bring about unity of action. It also brings harmony in carrying out the different programs, projects and activities of government to achieve the national objectives and goals efficiently.

Ensuring whole-of-government coordination requires the identification and mitigation of divergences between sectoral priorities and policies and promote mutually supporting actions across sectors and departments.

Development coordination must therefore be central to the implementation of our national development agenda to minimize wastage in time and in resources allocation and usage. Our decentralized planning system with MDAs at the Sector level, RCCs at the Regional level and MMDAs at the District level, are therefore expected to work in a synergistic manner, establishing vertical and horizontal linkages, with the aim of realizing the long-term development aspirations of the country.

This process should guide the implementation of our national strategy: The Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All (2022-2025).

Although some progress has been made in the past in the coordination process seeking to integrate activities, minimise duplication and enhance greater efficiency a lot more needs to be done.

The current economic and fiscal challenges we face including exchange rate depreciation, inflationary pressures, fiscal and monetary constraints require that we intensify our efforts in coordinating the activities of Government to minimize overlaps, reduce redundancy, improve efficiency in resource allocation and usage across all sectors of our society to build back our economy better and sustainably.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today, we have the Directors and Deputy Directors of the Policy, Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PPBMEs) of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government at our maiden meeting to find ways to:

1. Improve planning, implementation and reporting of programmes, projects, and activities at the sector level

2. Develop reliable coordination mechanisms for development planning and management and
3. Encourage the pooling of resources and joint implementation of development programmes to achieve common goals.

The Commission, as you know has been mandated to carry out development coordination functions as per the National Development Planning Commission Act, 1994, Act 470. In the past we have established Cross-Sectoral Planning Group meetings to address coordination issues in areas such as Nutrition, Food Security, SDGs, among others. However, there is more to be done in terms of effective coordination in other areas of Government. I believe this meeting and the discussions that will take place, will help us:

- Identify bottlenecks to an effective development coordination;
- Define the principles and techniques for effective coordination process;
- Explore innovative coordination approaches that will enhance our development effort

On this note, I welcome you all once again to this maiden meeting and hope that you will make your voices heard in the deliberations and contribute to institutionalizing the coordination process across the various levels of Government.

Thank you all and may God bless our homeland and make it Great and strong.