

**Speaking points of H.E. Mrs Diana Acconcia
Ambassador of the European Union to Ghana**



**Statement on the occasion of the donation of washing stations and re-usable face masks
at the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA)**

Mayor of Accra, Honorable Mohammed Adjei Sowah

Director of the Public Health Service, Mrs. Florence Kuukyi,

Representative of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Ebenezer Nortey,

Dear partners of Plastic Punch,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

This is the first public event I attend since before the lockdown! So I can say I am really happy and excited to be here.

We gather here today in special circumstances. A lot has changed in very little time. We all have to adapt – citizens, authorities, companies, organizations. In many ways, we are still adapting. And we all have to do our share. The people, the government, business, and of course also Ghana's development partners like the European Union.

Today we are here to give a small, tangible contribution to the fight against COVID-19. The EU is donating washing stations, Veronica Buckets and re-usable masks to the Accra Municipal Authority and to Polyclinics in Accra. And I am also happy to announce that they are produced locally.

It is a joint initiative with the Ministry of Finance and we work together with Plastic Punch, an organization we have partnered with in the past for other beautiful initiative such as cleaning the beach in Jamestown. Their volunteers will play a very big role in carrying out the project and I am very grateful for that.

With this donation we want to remind that the European Union solidarity between the different countries of Europe, and countries outside Europe, like Ghana, remains a priority.

As I said, this is a small action, but it is part of a wider effort from the EU to support Ghana in this difficult moment. We are working together with the government and with other partners to put together an effective response. We are looking at projects that are implemented all around Ghana to include initiatives to support communities during the Covid 19 crisis. To help in the health sector. To assist the poor. To support the most vulnerable communities.

So in the coming weeks, we will have more activities. In different regions of Ghana.

Before closing, allow me a small final remark. In this crisis it is important to remain well-informed. Listen to official guidelines and advice. Adhere to it. Stay safe. So: Keep social distance. Use your mask properly and wash your hands regularly.

We are truly together in this. All countries are affected. No region is spared. As President Akufo Addo rightly said: the enemy is not the other. It is the virus. So we should all work together. And this is precisely what we are doing.

Together we can fight the corona virus!