

the assembly will hear an address by his excellency nana adekunle adegunsoye president of the republic of ghana i request protocol to escort his excellency on behalf of the judging assembly i have the honor to welcome to the united nations his excellency nana adekunle adegunsoye president of the republic of ghana and invite him to address the assembly mr president i congratulate you warmly on your assumption of office as president of the general assembly the assembly of humanity and wish you well in the management of our affairs i congratulate also the secretary general on his unanimous re-election for a second term the common agenda that he has outlined provides us with a powerful framework within which to tackle effectively global issues in these first decades of the 21st century the presence here in new york of 102 leaders of nations in this 76th net session tells us of our resolve to return the world to normalcy we're not there yet but we're making considerable progress back in 2017 when i made my first appearance of the general assembly as a newly elected president of ghana i said neither ghana nor africa wanted to be scars on anybody's conscience i said we want to build economies that are not dependent on charity and handouts because long and bitter experiences have taught us that no matter how generous the charity we would remain poor between 2017 to 2020 ghana recorded an average growth rate of 7 amongst the highest in the world in 2020 when the global economy in sub-saharan africa is contracted by 3.5 percent and two point one percent respectively ghana was one of the few countries that produced a positive growth rate this is a testament to our determination to build a ghana beyond one year on although infection rates and deaths are relatively lower in the region the viruses impact on economies and livelihoods has been damaging the latest numbers from the african development bank indicate that african economies which contracted by 2.1 percent in 2020 are yet to return to pre-pandemic levels more than 30 million africans fell into extreme poverty in 2020 and nearly 40 million could do so in 2021. the social impact has been devastating over 103 million african jobs have been lost women who account for 40 percent of total employment have been most hard hit mr president we're listening to the scientists it is evident that vaccination is the way to protect populations and revitalize societies to vaccinate 70 percent in the shortest possible time as is being done elsewhere in the world means some 900 million africans have to be vaccinated the afroex in bank structuring of the african africa vaccine acquisition task force two billion acquisition of 400 million johnson and johnson vaccines is part of the historic african union's carbon 19 vaccine development and access strategy it is a critical milestone in our collective fight against the pandemic in a continent suffering the worst brunt of vaccine nationalism the africa vaccine acquisition task force vaccine program partly manufactured in south africa is the single largest and most far-reaching trade transaction since the entry into force of the african continental free trade area in january this year it is eloquent testimony to the benefits of domestic production and pool procurement in africa as envisaged by the african continental free trade area agreement ghana agrees with the call of the rome declaration of global health for voluntary licensing and technology transfers to boost vaccine production the africa union is working with who wtl and other global partners to expand this vaccine management manufacturing and deployment we in ghana have so far received 5 million doses which have been administered to front-line health workers and those classified as being most at risk five million is not a figure to be snared at particularly when we consider the situation in many other african countries we're grateful that our efforts of the management of the pandemic and vaccine distribution have been recognized and we have received these amounts so far we're still hoping to vaccinate 20 million of our people by the end of the year one unfortunate development appears to be the recent measures on entry into some countries in europe which suggests that coffee shield the oxford astrozenical vaccine manufactured in india is

not recognized by these countries what is intriguing is the fact that this vaccine was donated to african countries through the kovacs facility the use of vaccines as a tool for immigration control will be a truly retrogressive step mr president the last time there was such an upheaval in the world was during the second world war which led to the establishment of a new world order this organization the united nations and the other brettton woods institutions were created to maintain its international peace and security helped rebuild the shattered post-war economy and promote global economic cooperation even before the pandemic outbreak many have concluded that the current structure of global economic cooperation designed some 77 years ago has proven inadequate to finance infrastructure and economic transformation in developing countries given the incapacity of the global financial system to produce the necessary outcomes to finance sustainable development we need a constructive review coven 19 provides a great chance to rethink global economic cooperation based on the principles of mutuality equity sustainability and collective prosperity envisaged by the sdgs there is no question but that if the famous gathering in san francisco was to take place today it would be a significantly different united nations charter that would be written in much the same way a world bank or imf or who that is born today would be radically different institutions from those that were set up after the world war as many of the countries in today's world especially in africa and the caribbean were not present in san francisco the pandemic has also shown us that the the great advances in science and technology notwithstanding we still have a lot to learn and discover about the human body and about life thus far in spite of the grisly predictions of dead bodies littering the streets of africa and in spite of not having as much access to vaccine as the developed world africa seems mercifully to have escaped the worst of the covered death rates and for that we thank god ghana wants to share a few thoughts which we believe should form the basis for the new global cooperation firstly we need to strengthen the funding of the existing global health organizations this must include a greater more predictable base of multilateral funding for who and regional centers of disease controls which play the central roles in global health security it will require dedicating an additional 1 of gdp to funding global health this is an investment in the global public a go goal not aid secondly we must develop more resilient finances to build back better and for future preparedness across the african continent revenues have decreased by as much as 150 billion united states dollars as economists are still reeling from the economic impact of the pandemic african governments have already spent scarce reserves fighting the pandemic and providing social protection to millions of affected households ghana has been advocating that innovative financing must also address structural challenges beyond responding to immediate fiscal needs by providing mechanisms to facilitate investments in health infrastructure technology the environment and people that will bolster resilience and equitable recovery the imf's unprecedented 650 billion dollar united states sdr allocation offers a unique opportunity to provide additional financial resources to address the vast and surging inequities the pandemic has revealed and a crisis to come africa's allocation is some 33 billion united states dollars if ever there was a time for an african master plan it is now the sdr infusion should be seized upon as a catalytic effort to leave frog africa to the next level of human development and ensure sustained global prosperity african leaders have advocated for a prudent and transparent channeling of 25 to 35 percent of sdrs that is 160 to 230 billion dollars from wealthier to vulnerable countries 100 billion dollars of which should be dedicated to africa we welcome the support of the european countries represented at the africa summit in france the imf the g7 and g20 to some sgr redistribution mr president proceeds of channeled sdr should fund vaccine acquisition and manufacturing climate and green

investments and a pan-african stability mechanism like the european stability mechanism that will safeguard financial stability on the continent a part of the redistribution should also help fund the recapitalization of the african development bank and every exim bank to support industrialization private sector job creation and the african free trade continental free trade initiative thirdly we must reposition key multilateral organizations and international financial institutions such as the united nations the other brettton woods institutions and the g20 to reflect inclusiveness support country investments in global public goods and ensure fast-track financial support to build back better and prepare for future pandemics for instance the key to the g20's effectiveness is that it achieves representative coverage of the global population and economy with a diversified enough number of leaders of the table to enable speed and flexibility in deliberation and decision making admitting the african union to an expanded g21 would have the same galvanizing effect within africa that the eu's participation in the g20 has within europe strengthening policy coordination and coherence across the 54 african economies with the african union at the table the group suddenly would have representation for 54 more countries 1.3 billion more people and 2.3 trillion more output this extraordinary increase in representation will add just one seat to the table and about 10 minutes to the discussion however it will redefine global policy coordination to enable a more prosperous inclusive and sustainable world to emerge fourthly we in africa as committed as any to the fight against climate change we believe however that the fight is better advanced if we are able to maintain the crucial balance between economic political and environmental imperatives positions that will be articulating in glasgow at the cop 26 conference which should form part of the new global combat lastly now more than ever we must defend democracy constitutional rule and human rights in the world in the last 24 months we've witnessed assaults on democracy around the world sometimes even in developed countries where we had assumed that a consensus on the democratic form of governments had been established mr president in west africa recent events in mali and guinea have undermined democratic governance in our region echo us the regional body whose authority i have the honor to be the current chair is unreservedly committed to maintaining democratic governance in the echoes community that is why both guinea and mali foundation members of the community have been suspended from its organization pending the restoration of democratic governance we welcome the support of the united nations for the measures taken echoes has given guinea six months to do so and requested the immediate and requested the immediate release of president alfa conde on my visit to conocry last friday the military leaders indicated their willingness to seizures immediate imminent release and it is our hope that they will keep to their word the authority has also made it clear to the military government in mali that it is not prepared to negotiate an extension to the february deadline for the holding of democratic elections as the essential steps to be taken can with political will be effected within the ecowas sanctioned timetable it is better that the government of the democratic mandate be in place as soon as possible to implement the necessary reforms for the future stability and growth of mali thereby enhancing capacity for the all-important fight against terrorism in mali and in the wider sahel we in ghana highly resolve that we will continue to defend democracy and constitutional rule and uphold human rights we shall work to strengthen the institutions that support democracy in our country and in our region we shall continue to support the united nations and other international organizations to help remind us that indeed no man is an island entire of itself i thank you for your attention.