



Inauguration of offices for Sector Skills Bodies, May 28, 2021

Remarks by H.E. Philipp Stalder, Ambassador of Switzerland to Ghana, Benin and Togo

Hon Dr. Yaw Adutwum, Minister for Education,

Dr. Fred Asamoah, Ag. Director General of TVET Commission

Country Director of ILO & dear colleagues from EU Delegation & German Embassy

Leaders of various Sector Skills Bodies

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure to be again with you today after I have participated at the inauguration event of the Sector Skills Bodies in September 2019. I am pleased to see that now with the set-up of their offices a further step towards their operationalization and functioning has been done.

I am also very pleased to be here today because vocational training and especially the dual education system is a key feature and characteristic for the overall very successful Swiss education system. As I said on many other occasions: I firmly believe that our vocational training system developed in Switzerland over many decades is one of the main contributors for Switzerland's strong performance as an economic powerhouse in Europe and the world.

One of the decisive elements of Swiss TVET is the very active involvement of the private sector. The strong partnership between Government and private sector makes sure education system is "producing" enough skilled labor force what the labor market needs. And this partnership between the government and the companies goes beyond the two partners as the Swiss "Sector Skills Bodies" also include trade associations, branch organizations, social partners and training providers. Interesting also to know: Sector skills bodies in Switzerland are mandated by law to be responsible for the training content of vocational training and apprenticeships. This shows you that they really have an essential role.

Therefore, I am thrilled that Ghana has decided to use TVET in the same way as Switzerland meaning that Ghana is ready to involve and empower the private sector through the Sector Skills Bodies. Congratulations!

So, in a joint effort and we are pleased to support you on Ghana's journey to make TVET an attractive option for all young people who want to achieve something in life.

A word about the overall framework in which we operate: Just a few days ago, the Swiss Embassy discussed with our stakeholders from various ministries our new development cooperation strategy for next four years. Switzerland will continue to support Ghana to become a resilient and self-dependent Ghana. Through our cooperation activities, we want promote attractive framework conditions for sustainable growth and thus the creation of decent income opportunities for the population. The development of market-oriented skills in the sectors that provide the most potential for diversification and innovation is one of our major priorities. So, the development of skills for employment and entrepreneurship will continue to be on our agenda and we are looking forward to discussing with our partners how we can expand and deliver greater impacts from this ongoing work in the skills sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me thank all partners for their efforts to make TVET in Ghana a great opportunity for all. As we all agree, the private sector has a key role and the close collaboration is essential. The Sector Skills Bodies are part of the government's TVET strategy and the Commission for TVET is involved in the establishment of the Sector Skills Bodies. However, let me underline that it is important that the Sector Skills Bodies can maintain their independence from government in how they carry out their remit because a TVET system can only contribute to economic growth, if it is clearly addressing labor market demands.

Thank you very much for your attention.
