***WELCOME REMARK BY CAPT. P.N. TSAKOS,***

***HON CONSUL – GENERAL OF GHANA***

***ON FOCUS ON BUSINESS IN GHANA***

***25/11/2020***

Dear participants in this virtual important conference,

Congratulation to the organizers of the meeting and the initiative, the Hellenic African Chamber of Commerce and Development and the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises.

As the Honorary Consul – General of Ghana in Greece, allow me to say that Ghana is indeed one of the most attractive countries in Africa for business investments and trade. It is a vibrant democracy with strong institutions. It has a growth economy in both the agricultural and industrial sectors.

It has a very good financial standings with low inflation and stable currency.

Greece and Ghana are friends and longstanding partners.

Greek companies are operating in Ghana. The presence of MItilinaios, J&P, Intrasoft are some of the companies currently operating in Ghana with success and I am glad about that.

However, I am optimistic that there is more room to expand in trade, culture, and investment from both sides.

The currently ongoing geopolitical economic and social restructuring and challenges on the Planet cannot place Africa again on the outside. If Africa loses, we all loose!! The rest of the world cannot continue to gallop towards progress and prosperity side stepping once again Africa in the role of **“the poor relative”** ofthe Global Community. In any case, Africa has awakened, Africa is here, there are achievements, actions, efforts, and we are all obliged to contribute so that all these turn an “optimistic outlook and perspective”.

On the social area I am happy to announce that since 2012 the Maria Tsakos Foundation has established the St. Nicholas International School at Tema New Town offering pre-school and primary education to under – privileged children living in the surrounding sprawling TemaManhean fishing community, with the motto “Every child has a right to education.” Currently about 120 students are attending school.

So far this has been a great success and our vision is to see the future to cover junior high school education, calmulating in the development of vocational college by supporting with other donors and volunteers.

Again, thank you all, wishing youhealth, much success and long live Ghana and Greece.