

Sperrfrist: Montag, 8. Mai 2023, 19 Uhr

**Opening Greeting by H.E. Gina Ama Blay at the
presentation of the 2023 Eugen-Biser Award to Dr.
Gerd Müller in Munich, Germany on 8TH May, 2023**

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to share your company today as we celebrate the presentation of the Eugen Biser Award 2023 to Dr. Gerd Müller, a distinguished leader and trailblazer in the field of international development. Today, we recognize his tireless dedication and unwavering resolve to building a more just, equitable and sustainable world for all.

Dr. Müller's career has been marked by a steadfast commitment to social development. He has demonstrated that a globally responsible policy can take shape from Christian roots, and that it is possible to build a more just and equitable world for all. His achievements are numerous and significant, ranging from his role as a former German politician and former Federal Minister for Development and Cooperation, to his position as Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), where he has continued to promote policies that are aimed at promoting economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

As some of you may well know, Dr. Müller is affectionately called the 'African Minister' among the African diplomatic community in Germany. This is because of his ardent commitment to promoting development and cooperation between Germany and Africa, and his deep appreciation of the challenges facing the continent.

His efforts have helped to create new opportunities for millions of people on the continent and hundreds in my country, Ghana. While noting his efforts towards building resilient and

sustainable economies, it is pertinent to highlight the phenomenal role this 'African' Minister played in ensuring that several doses of vaccines were made available to recipients in Africa during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Muller is also a great person to know on a personal level. I fondly remember when he convinced me to try the environmentally friendly delicacy called vorns or worms at the Berlin Agricultural Messe in 2018, and I must say, they tasted great.

These actions and more, which time will not permit me to enumerate, are what have earned Dr. Muller the Eugen Biser Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions towards the betterment of humanity, and Dr. Muller's work is a shining example of that.

I am elated to be here today to celebrate his achievements and the Award is a fitting tribute to his decades-long service and untiring dedication to humanity.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Dr. Muller on this well-deserved honour. I have no doubt that his work will continue to inspire us all, and that he will continue to be a leading voice in the corridors of power for many more years to come.

Thank you.