One behalf of Civil Society Organizations in Northern Region, I stand to congratulate government for the collaborative effort exerted to ensure the effective implementation of the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) in the country. CSOs collaboration with government on the SDGs and in particular this thematic consultations which we are witnessing for the first time SDGs as part of the Voluntary National Review being organized in three Regions of Ghana—Cape Coast, Kumasi and Tamale is a big achievement.

We believe that if we really want to leave no one behind, then we must reaffirm our commitment to human rights. The 2030 Agenda is not just about achieving a set of development goals, it is about ensuring recognition, protection and implementation of universal rights, including to education and health, housing, water and sanitation, food sovereignty, decent work and living wages in the context of just transition of the work force, and universal social protection. We believe that in truly leaving no one behind, we must pay attention to gender pay gaps, under-representation of women in decisions making spaces, attacks on bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights. There is precious little time left to tackle the needless deaths of women trying to give life to others in Ghana and Africa as a whole.

If we all work together to ensure leave no one behind, there will be a big change in the country for we shall see less of poverty as well as achieve the indicators of the SDGs. We are by this statement with a passionate appeal to the regional coordinating council and other local
authorities to help us in localizing the SDGs in the region to promote sustainable development at all levels of development. The membership of the Ghana CSOs SDG Platform is open to all Ghanaian FBOs/NGOs/CBOs/private sector as well philanthropist who wish to support the cause of development.

We call on all to coordinate efforts to promote higher standards of participation and accountability at every step of implementation of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind.