

THE KUMASI DECLARATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

IN HONOUR OF BUSUMURU KOFI ANNAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ROYAL DIALOGUE ON THE SDGs HELD
UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF OTUMFUO OSEI TUTU II,
KING OF THE ASANTE KINGDOM,

AT THE MANHYIA PALACE ON NOVEMBER 12, 2018



Manhyia Palace



SDGs Advisory Unit
Office of the President

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

WE, the group of people made up of government officials, traditional leaders, religious leaders, select CEOs from the private sector, the academia, civil society organisations and the youth, meeting at Manhyia Palace on Monday November 12, 2018, on the occasion of the Royal Dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals, under the distinguished patronage of His Majesty Otumfuo Osei-Tutu II, as part of the efforts to support His Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in his role as co-Chair of the UN Secretary General's Eminent Group of Advocates;

Recognising that the ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ is both the defining agenda of our time and one of the most critical self-interested agendas we have; and that the future well-being of our communities, our countries, our businesses, our economies and our planet rests on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, (herein after referred to as the ‘Goals’);

Further recognising that the African Union Agenda 2063 is fully aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and therefore achieving the 2030 Agenda also leads to the attainment of Agenda 2063;

Committing to leaving no one behind in implementing both the 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 and to ensure that the needs of all persons everywhere especially those historically marginalised are addressed;

Acknowledging that achieving the Goals is not possible without the active and engaged participation of all major economic, social, institutional and environmental actors, who all have a key contribution to make that supports directly our individual and collective self-interests;

Further acknowledging that the Goals have no bias or vested agendas but is a collective agenda that will shape the future of our planet and for our children and grandchildren;

Emphasising that achieving the Goals requires broad, engaged and strategic actions as well as collaboration involving key public, private and civil society leaders and actors, the youth, traditional leaders, international organizations, faith-based groups and other groups;

Encouraged by the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into local development agendas especially the Government of Ghana’s Coordinated Programme for Economic and Social Development Policy;

Recalling the central role of Busumuru Kofi Annan, an illustrious citizen of our country, in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals and other development agenda including the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Global Compact with Business;

Further recalling the dedication of Busumuru Kofi Annan to peace, security and development and his vision of the need for public – private collaboration and collective action, and the need for global frameworks to tackle the challenges of development, environment and sustainability;

Committed to continue the good works of Busumuru Kofi Annan and to make this solemn declaration in his honour,

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO

1. **Urge** governments to create the necessary enabling environment for traditional leaders, religious leaders, the private sector, the academia, civil society organisations and the youth to attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. **Move** beyond structures, beliefs and systems that pit economic growth, social progress and environmental stewardship as mutually exclusive alternatives and embrace those systems, practices and structures that encourage, integrate and align social progress, environmental stewardship and economic value.
3. **Commit** to the implementation of the SDGs Agenda by strategic actions in collaboration with the government, private sector, traditional leaders, religious leaders, civil society organisations, international organisations and all other stakeholders in development.
4. **Encourage** public – private partnerships to facilitate the synergies and alignment between the Goals and business agenda of the private sector.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING

5. **Urge** Government to enhance mechanisms for the mobilisation of domestic resources in support of the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. **Create** innovative and blended financing structures that can integrate public investment with traditional corporate financing to integrate capital, facilitate alignment of economies of scale, as well as create enabling, incremental and cumulative impacts on the Goals from regular business operations.
7. **Encourage** the development of capital pools focused on business and infrastructure with high Goals impact potential.
8. **Urge** financial institutions to provide prudent credit facilities to firms with viable projects which are supportive of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

DATA AND INNOVATION

9. **Equip** the Ghana Statistical Service with modern technology and infrastructure for the collection of vital data for monitoring, evaluating and assessing progress made in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
10. **Develop** and deploy appropriate data gathering tools and infrastructure that facilitate the collection of data and information, including anecdotal and non-technical impact data relevant to the Goals;
11. **Invest** to create an enabling environment for the development of commercially deployable technologies that will facilitate improved environmental performance through public-private partnerships

GENDER

12. **Support** women entrepreneurship as part of a broader programme on the empowerment of women.
13. **Increase** investments in education and training, particularly for girls.
14. **Pursue** finance models and economic practices that create additional opportunity and increase the likelihood of success for women.
15. **Pursue** policies that ensure equal remuneration for women and men, that focus on diversity of opportunities and that address issues of reproductive health, sexual violence and harassment at the work place.
16. **Urge** government to provide sound health facilities to ensure that no woman dies from giving birth.
17. **Encourage** the development of on-site day-care facilities to enable working parents to better integrate work and family
18. **Provide** regulatory encouragement through tax incentives for gender balanced corporate boards and businesses that employ women in traditionally male dominated sectors.
19. **Require** at least 50-50 gender split on all public sector boards and to pursue and implement affirmative action laws and policies.

YOUTH

20. **Develop** a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development awareness and engagement learning module for delivery at Senior High Schools through trained teachers.
21. **Encourage** and support development of Clubs on the Goals in Schools and Post-Secondary Institutions.
22. **Accelerate** programmes that unleash the potentials of the youth to make direct contribution to sustainable development.

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

23. **Ensure** that traditional leadership is actively engaged with the 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063.
24. **Develop** and deploy work on SDGs awareness, engagement and impact program to reach all traditional leaders starting with the National House of Chiefs.
25. **Identify** traditional practices, under the remit of traditional leaders that can be used to support the attainment of the Goals.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

26. **Ensure** that all local government authorities have an adequate understanding of the Goals including their specific roles and responsibilities.
27. **Require** local government authorities to undertake an analysis of their areas to identify possible Goal impact opportunities and key Goal risk areas.
28. **Require** all local government authorities to report at least twice a year on the progress towards the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in their areas.

WE THEREFORE CALL ON

1. Public, private and civil society organizations to proactively engage in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking initiative and responsibility to enhance their positive impacts and mitigate any negative impacts.
2. The private sector not to treat the SDGs as external, but examine, understand and enhance how their ongoing operations impact the Agenda and the link between SDGs impact and business values.
3. The private sector, and organizations of all types to practice responsible consumption, making the most efficient and sustainable use of our country's and our planet's natural capital and environmental resources;
4. The private sector and organizations of all types to report on SDGs impact and engagement through sustainability reports and communications and in their annual reports and other means, including impact from internal operations.
5. The private sector to engage, inform and encourage stakeholder involvement in SDGs by ensuring that their employees and suppliers understand, embrace and impact on the SDGs.
6. Multi-sectoral support for the enhanced communication of the SDGs, their impacts and benefits, and encourage the creation of an ongoing multi-media series on SDGs stories, to facilitate broad public and stakeholder awareness of the SDGs agenda, its impacts and challenges and the value it creates across all areas of society and environment.
7. The Government of Ghana to create an annual SDGs Festival, with stakeholders to:
 - a. Facilitate broader public awareness of and engagement in the SDGs;

- b. Celebrate SDGs progress, including developing an SDGs Awards program to celebrate and honour leading SDGs activities and initiatives from across public, private and civil society;
- c. Share SDGs learnings, challenges and strategies;
- d. Hear from SDGs leaders in various sectors, both from Ghana and across the globe
- e. Provide training and capacity building in SDGs engagement

We reaffirm that the SDGs is the most important agenda humanity faces. Achieving it will help set our countries, our communities, our institutions and our societies on a path to a prosperous and exciting future. We have no choice but to succeed. Failure is not an option. We can only succeed when we are successful in engaging all key actors; public sector, private sector and civil society; youth, elders, traditional leaders and religious leaders in ways that enables and empowers each of them to contribute in a way that furthers our collective agenda and interest and also furthers their direct and specific agendas and interests.

We call on the President of the Republic to share this declaration with the other Advocates and the United Nations Secretary-General and to ensure that all member states of the United Nations adopt pragmatic steps in like manner.

We express our deepest gratitude to His Majesty Otumfuo Osei-Tutu II for his generosity in hosting us in his magnificent Manhyia Palace and for his guidance in ensuring the success of our deliberations.

**DECLARED ON 12TH NOVEMBER, 2018 AT THE
MANHYIA PALACE ON THE OCCASSION OF THE
ROYAL DIALOGUE ON THE SDGs ORGANISED BY**



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