

URBAN YOUTH DECLAR ACTION



Accra, Ghana



Youth DeclarACTION on Sustainable Urbanization, Accra, Ghana

**National Urban Forum Youth 2030 Cities
 UN-Habitat Meeting
 Accra; Ghana, March 30, 2022**

We, the representatives of youth organizations from Ghana, gathered at the first National Urban Youth2030 Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements System (UN-Habitat) in the City of Accra, Ghana, on March 29-30th, 2022, to declare our right to the city and express our intention to work with all stakeholders towards the meaningful inclusion of youth in the sustainable, inclusive, safe and prosperous development of our cities and communities to create friendlier environments for the next generations.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

That given the nature of the 2030 Agenda, we, the youth, leverage ALL efforts to live the true meaning of leaving no one behind through localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda as founded on knowledge, understanding and responsibility to ensure that communities/cities are at the center of SDGs achievement.

That the most important issues facing young people in Ghana are

I. Sanitation

- Limited enforcement of sanitation by-laws.
- Improper waste disposal.
- Increased quantities of plastic waste in water bodies and in the streets.
- Improper management of landfills.

II. Unemployment

- Disconnect in job placement from education system.
- Unemployment and underemployment.
- Limited recognition and appreciation of art.



Participant of the Youth 2030 Cities Focus Group Discussion in Accra, March 2022.

III. Teenage pregnancy

Inadequate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
Culture of silence within communities.

IV. Child labour

Unequal opportunities in communities.
Lack of action by enforcement bodies

V. Substance abuse

Poor parental care.
Peer pressure.
Broken homes and curiosity.

VI. Political violence

Incentives from political parties before elections.
Limited access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and other soft skills to suit young people.

VI. Open defecation

Limited sensitization on open defecation.
Expensive costs for constructing household toilets.
Lack of enforcement of laws on public health and open defecation

VII. Poverty

Lack of participation of youth in decision making.
Expensive healthcare.
Limited employment opportunities.
Challenges in accessing education for children and youth.



Participants in Youth 2030 Forum in Accra, Ghana



Participants in Youth 2030 Forum in Accra, Ghana



Participants in Youth 2030 Cities Focus Group Discussion in Accra, Ghana discussing challenges facing the youth in their communities

That it is necessary to strengthen key links that exist between actors in the City of Accra, as well as around the world to create networks for exchange and action. Such actors include-

1. The National Government
2. The Local Government
3. Academia
4. Civil Societies
5. Academia
6. Private Sector
7. United Nations Agencies
8. Community Based Organizations
9. Non-Governmental organizations

That the involvement of the local and national government in advancing innovative and revolutionary agendas for young people is essential;

That the framework of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires localizing capacities, especially among youth to be prepared to advance the agenda in their local communities from the ground up;

That the New Urban Agenda is a pillar of comprehensive development that can be achieved at all levels: local, national, regional and international;

That each young person and their actions are important, and strengthen the move towards a future where everyone can benefit and prosper, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

That we, the young people of Ghana, have created this space, the National Youth2030 Urban Forum, to openly discuss critical issues determined by youth participants and find sustainable and inclusive solutions through certain actions defined below.



A participant of the Youth 2030 Cities SDG localization training workshop in Accra, Ghana

WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT:

In the context of the Focus Groups and Training Workshops, as well as in the conversations and ideas that emerged at the Youth2030 National Youth Forum, the youth of Ghana from diverse experiences have established the following SDGs as the most important given our local reality and the shortcomings we see in everyday life:

1. Decent work and Economic growth
2. Sustainable Cities and Communities
3. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
4. Good Health and Wellbeing
5. Gender Equality
6. Sanitation
7. Climate Action
8. Water and Sanitation among others

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS:

In order to meet these commitments, all of society must come together.

At the Youth2030 Forum in Accra, we identified what each key stakeholder must do to support meaningful youth action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Young people must:

1. Recycle plastic waste to help reduce the amount of plastic waste in our water bodies and on the street.
2. Enhance communication with parents on Sexual and Reproductive Health and rights.
3. Young people must step up and avoid taking incentives from political parties before elections.
4. Engage in decision making.



A participant in the Youth 2030 Forum in Accra, Ghana presenting her individual DeclarAction

The National government must:

1. Improve sanitation facilities to curb improper waste disposal.
2. Adjust the educational system to constitute more of vocational training.
3. Provide seminars on entrepreneurship.
4. Introduce sexual and reproductive health and rights information in the school curriculum to educate adolescent girls and boys to enable them have adequate information on their sexual activities and make informed decisions.
5. Create equal opportunities in communities to end child labour.
6. Create and enforce laws to curb child labour.
7. Create employment opportunities to fit the set skills to avoid young.
8. Create diverse opportunities for everyone.



Participants networking at the Youth 2030 Forum in Accra, Ghana



A participant speaking the Youth 2030 Forum in Accra, Ghana

Local governments must:

1. Enforce by-laws on sanitation.
2. Properly manage landfills.
3. Provide financial support to support youth with artistic skills.
4. Providing necessary social amenities within communities.
5. Enhance rehabilitation services and awareness on substance abuse.
6. Increase public education on open defecation.
7. Build toilet facilities for communities.
8. Enforce laws regulating public health and open defecation.

The United Nations must:

1. Sensitize on the SDGs and youth-led development.
2. Create synergies with local and national government to enhance action and impact evaluation.

Inter-governmental organizations must:

1. Conduct sensitization efforts targeting young people in communities by National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) before general election to curb political violence

The civil society must:

1. Advocate on environmentally safe practices.
2. Call for peer coaching and mentorships along with advocating for the elimination of the culture of silence on teenage pregnancies.

The private sector must:

- Make changes in industrial technique to accommodate the education system.
- Allocate job opportunities to youth within communities.
- Building household toilets at reduced prices.



Participants at the Youth 2030 Cities Focus Group Discussion in Ghana

CLOSING:

Highlighted above are young people’s recommendations and goals for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana. We are ready and willing to partner with our local governments and other stakeholders to join forces towards building more inclusive and sustainable cities and communities.

We ask the governments and local authorities to take urgent steps to ensure that our voices are listened to and actions taken seriously. As young and responsible citizens who have already been working hard to improve our cities, we commit to continue to be part of the implementation of the action points outlined in this “DeclarACTION”.

PRESENTED BY:

The participants of the National Urban Forum Youth2030 in Accra, Ghana.



A group photo of participants and facilitators at the Urban Youth Forum in Accra, Ghana



YOUTH
2030
CITIES
YOUTH ACTION
FOR THE SDGs



SCAN ME