

The Youth; A tool for the Implementation and Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

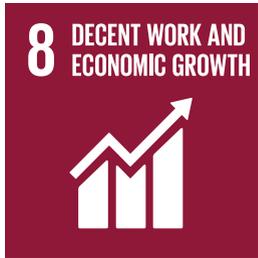
A Young Diplomats of Ghana (YDG) Report.

August, 2017.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On January 1, 2016, the 17 Sustainable Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit - officially came into force. Over the next 15 years, with these new goals that universally applies to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.



The place of the youth in the development agenda of a country and the power they wield as agents of change are often greatly underestimated and disregarded. How does a nation attain sustainable development? Certainly unless it pragmatically engages its most potent human resource group; the youth. As former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki - moon puts it, "The world's young people; who make up the largest generation of youth in history, can lead a global drive to break the patterns of the past and set the world on course to a more sustainable future".

We at IPPG recognize the abundance of wealth that the youth possess that makes them an asset to our country. Hence our efforts to empower and engage the younger generation especially in matters pertaining to leadership and development. To this end, IPPG through its youth development initiative, the Young Diplomats of Ghana (YDG), hosted a

workshop on the theme "The Youth; A tool for the Implementation and Realization of the SDGs".

The aim of the workshop was to engage young Ghanaians by soliciting their views on the role they can play in the implantation and realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and what makes them a key component of the development process and agenda of the country. The participants were put into four (4) groups to share ideas and discuss a number of topical issues making up the subject matter of the workshop. This report aptly highlights the results of the deliberations from the four (4) groups at the workshop.

With the help of the very resourceful facilitators, the participants were able to successively put their ideas and thoughts in perspective to rightly hit the target. It is evident from the zeal shown and ideas expressed at the workshop

that the youth are ready to get involved and make a difference to their lives, communities and the country as a whole. If only the government and other organizations and people of influence would give them the needed leverage in the pursuit of their dreams, beyond the skies will be their limits!

IPPG and the Young Diplomats of Ghana seek to use this publication to bring to light the potential and drive of young Ghanaians today. Being informed and birthed by these ambitious group of the population, we hope this report moves all of us to action by investing time, resources and even hope into the Ghanaian youth. It is also an invitation for partnership and support for all our initiatives in training and empowering the younger generation of leaders and change makers.

The world's young people; who make up the largest generation of youth in history, can lead a global drive to break the patterns of the past and set the world on course to a more sustainable future.

*Ban Ki-moon
Former UN Secretary-General.*

The new generation of young Ghanaians are critical thinkers, having different perspectives to socio economic and political issues based on their challenges and experiences. Undisputed; young Ghanaians would be crucial in translating the vision of the SDGs into reality; as the Goals seek to "Leave No one Behind".

Participants were put into 4 groups to establish the potent fact that the youth in Ghana would be a key factor in the realization and achievement of the SDGs in Ghana by exploring the following;

- * Identifying a link between the youth and the SDGs.
- * Establishing the qualities and skills unique to young people making them a key factor in the implementation of the SDGs.
- * Suggesting means to bridge the gap between the government and young people.
- * Identifying specific roles that can be potentially played by young Ghanaians in the implementation of the SDGs.



Group One.

The link between the Youth and the Sustainable Development Goals.



Premise to Work.

“Young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth...”

*Ban Ki-moon
Former UN Secretary-General.*



Group Task.

The Group was challenged to identify some of the major challenges affecting young people and how the attainment of the goals can help address these challenges.



CHALLENGES FACED BY THE YOUTH.

PROBABLE CAUSE.

SUGGESTED SOLUTION.

SDGs

Unemployment.

Limited Industrialization.

Unfit for industry oriented educational curriculum and inadequate practical training.

Unfavorable condition for entrepreneurship to thrive.

Regulation of tertiary education and curricula drafting, promoting on the job-training and industry-academia alliances.

Developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for entrepreneurship and industries to thrive.

Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services,

Goal 4 (Quality Education)

Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)

Unaffordable Housing.

Expensive housing systems make it nearly impossible for young people to start and have a good life as nearly 60 -75% of income are invested in renting.

Deliberate and conscious efforts in providing affordable housing units.

Enforcement of the Rent Act of Ghana and empowering the Rent Control Office in the discharge of their duties.

Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities)

Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)

Cultural Challenges.

Outmoded cultural practices, such as child marriages, etc.

Discrimination against women and girls.

Improving access to formal education.

Enforcement of laws and institutions on harmful practices.

Ensuring the participation and equal opportunities of women and girls for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

Sensitization of the public on the harmful effect of such practices.

Goal 4 (Quality Education).

Goal 5 (Gender Equality).

Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions).



Group Two.

Qualities and Skills unique to young people making them a key factor in the implementation of the SDGs.



Premise to Work.

Young people are also on the vanguard of progress – as entrepreneurs, activists and community leaders. You inspire change”.

*António Guterres
UN Secretary-General.*

“Young people are traditionally at the cutting edge, and today's youth have more information than any previous generation. Their dynamism, creativity and idealism can combine to shape attitudes toward demand...”

*Ban Ki-moon
Former UN Secretary-General.*



Group Task.

The Group was challenged with identifying some of the qualities exhibited by young people over the years; highlighting the advantages the new generation of young people have over the older folks and if these qualities are worth tapping into by the government.



The youth like any defined social cohort possess some characteristics unique to them. Over time, the youth have been proven to have unparalleled skills giving them a huge advantage over past generations of young people and should certainly not be overlooked by the government.

QUALITIES & SKILLS.

UNIQUE ADVANTAGES.

WHY WE SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE GOVERNANCE PROCESS.

Passionate, Energetic, Resilient and Goal Oriented.

Adaptable to change, strong, agile and very result-oriented.

Understand the meaning of sacrifice and we are willing to work together for the greater good and also offer voluntary services for a worthy cause.

Creative & Innovative, Critical & Analytical Thinkers.

Access to new ways and approaches of achieving results and a wider spectrum of resources in assets and personnel.

Wealth of ideas means our thinking is not limited and we can create sustainable ways of improving society.

Well Informed.

Improved access to Information and Education.

Potential to support the governance process with empirical information and research as curious minds working with facts and figures.

Larger Risk Appetites & Very Adventurous.

Large population of the Ghanaian youth gives as the demographic dividend of significance.

Very much aware that government cannot solve every problem on its own and that public institutions need private sector support. We are ready to help.

Well Exposed to Technology.

Exposed to the world as a Global Village and we think on a Global Scale. Due to the digital revolution, we are technologically enabled.

Potential to drive the governance process through technology, data processing and storage etc as technology enthusiasts.



Group Three.

Bridging the gap between the government and the young people.



Premise to Work.

"When we invest in youth, they can contribute to new markets, decent jobs, fair trade, sustainable housing, sustainable transport and tourism, and more opportunities that benefit the planet and people".

*Ban Ki-moon
Former UN Secretary-General.*

Group Task.

Based on the unanimously agreed innovative spirit of young people in addressing developmental challenges especially when given the needed resources, this group was challenged to propose means through which government can create an opportunity for young people to flourish and also be engaged in the governance and decision making process.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO FLOURISH.

Creating a favorable environment for Entrepreneurship to flourish.

Investing in Quality Education.

Investing in access to Quality Healthcare.

Investing in Science, Technology and Industrialization.

Establishment of a Youth Ministry, with primary focus on youth development and empowerment.

Harnessing the demographic dividend of the youth.

BEING ENGAGED IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

Working on a Youth Agenda for Political Participation to establish ground rules for the participation of young people in the political space.

Youth Empowerment through Civic Education.

Youth Groups consulted in the Decision Making and Policy Implementation Processes.

Supporting Youth Dialogues to develop a stronger culture of dialogue among the youth.

Creating and supporting training programs and initiatives with the objective of building the capacity of young people to be efficient in participating in the political and governance processes.



Group Four.

The Role of young Ghanaians in the implementation of the SDGs.



Premise to Work.

"I encourage all young people to become involved in advancing the SDGs and demanding action by their Governments".

*Ban Ki-moon
Former UN Secretary-General.*



Group Task.

Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on governments being held to account for the goals and targets. As an agenda which seeks to leave no one behind; certainly, government cannot lead the agenda alone. Group 4 was challenged to identify the specific roles young people can and must play to assist the government in the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana.



SPECIFIC ROLE.**DETAILS.****Advocacy.**

Ambassadorial roles for a cause.
Sensitization on several issues using various social and digital media.
Community work and networking.
Peer mentoring and acting as influencers.
Inclusion of the youth in policy making and tapping into the wealth of ideas that we possess.

Volunteerism.

The National Service Secretariat (NSS) should be responsible for more than just a year of service after tertiary education.

Youth Led Volunteer Groups should lead the agenda with the NSS to collaborate with both public and private institutions, in opening avenues for young people to work as volunteers for the development agenda of the country.

Avenues and opportunities must be created to allow young people to willingly contribute their quota to bringing the sustainable development agenda of the country to life.

Private sector must end treating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as 'business as usual'. The face of CSR must be all-inclusive to tackle societal problems at the most basic levels and working hand in hand with Youth Led Volunteering Groups.

Youth Expert Hubs.

The youth can facilitate the creation of youth expert hubs to lead the scientific and systematic methodology and planning required to spur on the achievement of the SDGs.

Through social entrepreneurship drive, the youth can help in the achievement of the SDGs.

Technology Driven Initiatives.

Young people have the ability to introduce new products, methods and technologies and also have the potential to generate enormous economic benefits that can give any economy a competitive edge.

We would need the support to lead the hurdle of managing different types of innovation concurrently to meet global and national demands.



Workshop Participants.

Group One.

1. Akua Serwaa Ampong, *Lawyer - O & A Legal Consult.*
2. Francis Obeng Asante, *National Service Personnel.*
3. Emmanuel Offei Adams, *Policy Analyst - Centre for Development and Research Advocacy.*
4. Michael Borteye Okoe Junior, *Entrepreneur.*
5. Abdul-Fatawu Abubakari, *Student - University of Education, Winneba.*
6. Charles Dzokoto, *Student - Ashesi University College.*
7. Dennis Nii Armah Quaye, *National Service Personnel - Parliament of Ghana.*
8. Kwadwo Adade Amponsah, *Student - KNUST.*
9. Maxwell Beganim, *Teacher - T. I Ahmadiyya Girls SHS.*
10. Henry Boye, *Banker - Ecobank Ghana Limited.*
11. Emmanuella Afua Benewaa Tano, *Student - University of Ghana.*
12. Helen Asor Afriyie, *Communications Officer, Development Communicator.*
13. Mabel Madjiekie Madjie, *Social Entrepreneur – Eternal Heart Prints / H4P Organisation.*
14. Sabina Morgan, *Junior Quantity Surveyor - Associated Consultants.*

Group Two.

1. Cherubim Mawuli Amenyedonor, *Digital Marketer - OOT Digital Agency.*
2. Esther Azasi, *Health Researcher - Millennium Promise.*
3. Juana Boateng, *Communication Executive - Office of H.E. JJ Rawlings.*
4. Anthonette Ama Boakye, *Bilingual Secretary - Ecole Ronsard.*
5. Rosemond Appiah, *Assistant Budget Analyst - Obuasi Municipal Assembly.*
6. Samuel Acquah Gyamfi, *Health Services Administrator - University of Ghana.*
7. Caleb Mensa-Bonsu, *Banker - The Royal Bank Limited.*
8. Felix Boakye Yiadom, *Research Assistant - KNUST.*
9. Francis Essien, *Student – KNUST.*
10. Maurice Adabugah, *Student - Catholic University College of Ghana.*
11. Richard Nketiah Asuming, *Student - Presbyterian University College.*
12. Agnes Asare-Konadu, *Entrepreneur.*
13. Freda Ohene-Yeboah, *Assistant Accounts Officer - Logistics Direct Ltd.*
14. Juanita Araba Ghartey, *Entrepreneur.*



Workshop Participants.

Group Three.

1. David Sasu, *Student - Ashesi University College.*
2. Dr. Janice Lovi, *Physician - Cape Coast Teaching Hospital.*
3. Ophelia Akonobea Asante, *Marketer - Unique Insurance Company Limited.*
4. Benjamin Akowuah Acheampong, *Accountant, Church of Pentecost, Adentan.*
5. Samuel Ahenakwah Benya, *Executive Director - FunLab Initiative Ghana.*
6. Abdul-Rasheed Siba, *Student - Central University.*
7. Anthony Awindin Abanga, *Student - Catholic University College of Ghana.*
8. Ishmael Salifu Batanga, *Student - Ghana Baptist University College.*
9. Kofi Amoako Baah, *Student - Ghana Institute of Journalism.*
10. Martin Koranteng Okornoe, *National Service Personnel - Ashaiman Municipal Assembly.*
11. Abena Okoampah, *Intern - Akufo-Addo, Prempeh and Co.*
12. Gladys Aikins, *Banker - Unibank Ghana.*
13. Rebecca Laryea, *Front Office Personnel - Hotel Casarere.*
14. Linda Anima Twum, *Student - University of Ghana.*

Group Four.

1. Emmanuel Amoah-Darkwa, *Analyst - Songhai Advisory LLP.*
2. Joana Abena Pomaa Chemel, *Business and Project Assistant- GNBCC.*
3. Emmanuel Asare, *Student - Ashesi University College.*
4. Charlotte Obeng, *Trainee Actuary - Old Mutual Life Insurance.*
5. Joel Ofori Amoako, *Student - GIMPA.*
6. Ato Nunoo, *IT Personnel - National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana.*
7. Dzolarli Kwasi Agbanu, *Laboratory Analyst - Olam Ghana Ltd.*
8. Gilbert Reinall Addo, *Front Office Manager - Windy Lodge and Beach Resort.*
9. Mishael Nkansah, *Accountant - Institute of Chartered Accountants.*
10. Paul Tetteh Zotorvie, *Entrepreneur.*
11. Priscilla Awine Addah, *Student - GIMPA.*
12. Rahmatu Larry Alhassan, *Student - Accra Technical University.*
13. Sabina Afua Agyeiwaa, *Student - Presbyterian University College.*
14. Zeina Addo-Yeboah, *Student - University of Ghana Medical School.*



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The Young Diplomats of Ghana (YDG); an initiative of the International Perspective for Policy and Governance (IPPG) is a non-profit network that seeks to advance the development of a new generation of aspiring leaders and diplomats in Ghana, and to build their advocacy experience.

Through training, policy campaigns and research, YDG Members and Delegates are exposed to a network of resources and opportunities to build, nurture and harness their skills and potentials, to effectively contribute to the national discourse as young global leaders and diplomats and also work as Ambassadors of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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