



"Building Ghana's Future Leaders
in Diplomacy & Policy Advocacy."

YDG STATEMENT: 8/2025

Local Action, Global Impact: YDG Marks International Youth Day 2025

Today, on International Youth Day 2025, the Young Diplomats of Ghana (YDG) proudly joins the global community in honoring the vision, resilience, and leadership of young people driving sustainable development. This year's theme, "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond", resonates deeply with our mission and nine-year journey of empowering emerging leaders to influence policy, advocate with purpose, and deliver transformative change within their communities.

Over nearly a decade, we have witnessed the extraordinary capacity of young people to drive progress with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Ghana. Our current delegates have championed initiatives spanning health policy (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), clean energy (SDG 7), climate action (SDG 13), and justice (SDG 16), proving that when young people are equipped with the right platforms and the tools, they do not merely participate in development; they lead it.

This year, in partnership with the Youth Opportunity and Transformation in Africa (YOTA), we have also produced a series of policy briefs on education, employment, and guidance and counselling. These briefs present practical recommendations aimed at catalyzing stronger SDG action and advancing youth-centred policy interventions in Ghana.

Looking ahead, one of the most critical opportunities lies in strengthening youth engagement in local governance. Local political structures provide a vital platform for direct interventions and community-driven actions that can accelerate progress on the SDGs. Expanding meaningful youth participation at this level will be essential to realising the full promise of the SDGs and ensuring that development decisions reflect the aspirations and needs of young people.

As part of this year's celebration, YDG will host a live X Spaces discussion on Tuesday, August 12, at 7:30 pm GMT to discuss the subject "Youth in Local Politics: A Missing Link in Achieving the SDGs". This dialogue will explore strategies for enabling young people to influence local decision-making and ensure their voices and actions shape the future of our communities.

We invite all young leaders, partners, and citizens committed to sustainable development to join us for this important conversation. The future we envision will only be achieved when youth voices are heard, valued, and empowered at every level of governance and policy action.

Please join the conversation on X: <https://x.com/i/spaces/1yNGaLbEALWKj>
Follow us on X: @ydgghana

Happy International Youth Day!