

We acknowledge the structures put in place by Ghana Government for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the SDG commitments as an indicator of political commitment. We laud the Government for putting in place Policy frameworks and systems for the domestication of the SDGs via National Development plans and the flagship programmes as examples of strategies to “Leave no one behind”. Also, the initiative to increase and improve domestic revenue, to finance development as envisaged in Ghana beyond Aid is visionary. However, these strategies and plans will not drive the transformation that is required to achieve the SDGs goal by 2030, if they are not backed by a sustainable budget that is decentralised and responds to addressing the growing inequalities that persist between urban and rural and inter and intra regions of the country. Government plans must also be backed by a regional and district workforce that understands the SDGs and can translate them into district development plans and be able to monitor same. We appreciate the Government’s acknowledgment of SDGs implementation challenges.

For instance access to education has improved, however the quality and infrastructure including water, sanitation and hygiene is still a challenge. Technical and vocational education is being revamped, however institutions are not adequately resourced to provide relevant skills to the youth. Plans by government to cede management of some public schools to non-state actors under a Public Private Partnership arrangement could widen inequalities and threaten the realization of the SDG4 targets.

1. The Private sector is profit driven and their engagement in the SDGs may not be people centered. What practical measures are being put in place to ensure that they adhere to international and national labour standards as well as engage the SDGs from a human rights perspective?

## STATEMENT # 2

We acknowledge the government's effort to promote women’s rights and gender equality but we also register the slow pace of progress in all sectors - ranging from women’s low participation in governance, their poor access to resources critical for livelihoods and the unacceptable high rates of violations of the rights of women and girls. This reality exists despite the passage of several policies and laws directed at addressing women’s human rights over the years. SDG 5.c.1 measures countries progress towards efforts being put in place to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. By tracking resource allocations and making them public, governments commit to higher levels of transparency and accountability in budgets. Ad hoc interventions which do not seek to tackle systemic barriers should be reviewed. Government should ensure that there is adequate and effective financing to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls; and put transparent systems in place to track public resource allocations for gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment.

The Ghana VNR report indicates the establishment of the Gender, Children and Social Protection Ministry as one of its strategies to address gender inequalities; yet, the Ministry with 3 mandates is under-resourced and with the least government budget allocation.

1. What systems will the government put in place to ensure adequate financing and public tracking for resource allocations for the SDGs?

2. Whilst CSO engagement in development policies and practices exist, this process continues to be a challenging space for effective engagement. What plans does the Government have to broaden effective civil society participation in Ghana's Development Agenda?