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## **YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM IN GHANA**

### **“Youth Leadership to Build Climate-Resilient Economies”**

### **13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

### **Youth Communiqué**

#### **Preamble**

**We, the youth participants of the Youth Adaptation Forum in Ghana, gathered in Accra** from 13–14 May. We engaged in a dialogue, shared experiences, and forged collective pathways toward building a climate-resilient economy. This Forum was co-hosted by the Ghana Youth Environmental Movement (GYEM) and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) as part of the African Youth Adaptation Forums under the African Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP).

**We express our deep appreciation to GCA the organizers, GYEM the implementing partners, and invited dignitaries**, whose support provided a platform for youth voices to be heard and elevated.

**The Forum offered us a platform to connect with youth leaders, youth-led organizations, universities and government representatives**, and to learn about adaptation and showcase our solutions and experiences.

**The high-level segment** had the participation of the Ambassador for the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana, the Director of Africa for the Global Centre on Adaptation, the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability and the acting Director of the Climate Change Unit at the Environmental Protection Authority.

**We, the youth, face challenges like lack of jobs, limited funding and capacity building for youth-led initiatives** which hinders our ability to bring innovative solutions to life. Despite our passion and involvement, we often lack access to mentorship and representation, especially in decision-making spaces where our voices are most needed. Bureaucratic barriers prevent young people from receiving support and participating. Too frequently, young people are included in policy discussions without being granted real decision-making power.

**We are however uniquely positioned to lead** both adaptation and sustainable economic growth across the continent.

**At the Forum, Youth organizations presented experiences from regions of Ghana** on water management and protecting water resources, regenerative agriculture, youth engagement in adaptation policy, agroecology, climate education and empowerment, and waste management.

**We the youth take pride in our identity as resilient Ghanaians and Gen Z leaders** actively engaging in raising awareness and addressing climate change issues. We are proud of the active participation of different stakeholders in adaptation action. Ghana has made meaningful progress especially in incorporating climate change education into the school system curriculum. Ghanaian youth are equally involved in national policy processes such as the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and initiatives like Green Ghana Day which have mobilized mass action nationwide.

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**We, recognizing the urgent need for adaptation action, present this communiqué as our collective voice,** highlighting our aspirations, challenges, and commitments to building climate-resilient economies.

**We envision a Ghana where people-centred policies and initiatives are implemented.** Where people are accountable for their actions that affect the planet including recycling, waste management, and generating jobs and income. Where empowered people recover from the impact of climate change. Water, food, and other necessities become accessible to everyone. While facilitating shared experiences and best practices from neighbouring countries and rural and urban communities that promote climate-smart agriculture.

**We are facing the impacts of climate change such as:**

- Sea level rise, increased coastal flooding, receding fish stocks, leading to poverty and declining incomes for coastal communities, threatening homes and livelihoods
- Soil erosion, solar radiation, drought, desertification, and deforestation, threatening agricultural livelihoods
- Rising cases of diseases like cerebrospinal meningitis and malaria
- Heatwaves and rising temperatures
- Unpredictable rainfall patterns disrupting farming, water access, and food security
- Unequal health impacts of climate change on different members of society including women (who are pregnant), young people, people with disabilities.
- Water pollution due to mining
- Climate change induced conflicts

**To champion adaptation action, we need:**

- A holistic and integrated approach combining adaptation and mitigation solutions including renewable energy
- Continuous training opportunities on climate finance for the youth, including platforms to connect and exchange good practices, and peer to peer learning
- Easy access to funding for young ecopreneurs
- Enforced national climate policies with a long-term impact and policy education in local dialect and rural areas
- Commitment from youth advocates practicing adaptation solutions
- To empower young people from rural communities, religious organizations, and marginalized groups
- Resolution of health problems whilst engaging in adaptation
- To bridge the gap between different communities

**We, as Youth, can be agents of change in our communities and seek to learn more about:**

- Climate science policy and instilling behavioural change in ourselves and others
- Technological advancements and how to translate these to climate adaptation
- Climate financing and carbon credits

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- Practical solutions to issues at the local level and the use of indigenous knowledge to tackle climate change
- Developing and implementing climate-smart agriculture and nature-based solutions

**Our commitment to building a climate-resilient economy is to:**

- Advocate on social media about adaptation
- Build a movement and lead with integrity
- Champion adaptation education in our communities
- Learn about adaptation solutions available in our country
- Take initiative to drive change at home and in our communities
- Replicate capacity building and training programmes in rural and local communities and in local languages

**We, the youth of Ghana, are calling on Global leaders to support us with resources and opportunities.** For we are not waiting, we are leading. We are not just the future; we are the present. Together, with support and partnership, we are building a climate-resilient Ghana, one bold action at a time.

#Youth4Adaptation #Africa #Ghana