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**Ghana celebrates UNDP@50**

The Government of Ghana joined world leaders in celebrating 50 years of UNDP's achievements as one of the world's largest multilateral development agencies working with countries to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion.

The UNDP Associate Administrator, Tegegnetwork Gettu joined former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Hanna Tetteh, other ministers, government functionaries and UNDP staff to mark this feat in a special event organized in Accra. "Today's event is a celebration of the longstanding partnership between UNDP and the Government and people of Ghana. It is also a celebration of the progress and the leadership shown by other developing countries", said Mr. Gettu.

Since late 1978 when UNDP signed its Standard Basic Agreement with the Government of Ghana, it has accompanied Ghana through regimes of transformation agendas and the quest for ensuring better living standards for the people of Ghana.

Hon. Hanna Tetteh commended UNDP for its enduring support to Ghana, recalling in particular the organization's support to the promotion of tourism in the country since early days. Former Minister of Finance, Mr. Seth Terkper recognized government's partnership with UNDP over the years in implementing development programmes with the view of improving the living conditions of Ghanaians through policy advocacy and development delivery.

UNDP's global journey started in January 1966 when it was formed. Since then, it has been at the forefront of efforts to eradicate poverty, hunger and disease, create jobs and livelihoods, empower women, support recovery from disasters and other crises, protect the environment, and more.

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## Message from the Country Director



*Mr. Dominic Sam*

Yet again, UNDP in Ghana made substantial progress in 2016.

One of the highlights of 2016 was the celebration of 50 years of UNDP's global leadership in empowering lives and building resilient nations. The global celebration, heralded by a Ministerial Meeting in New York, witnessed more than 160 Ministers, Heads of Government and other senior officials from around the world including Ghana, to commemorate UNDP's past and charted a course for the future of global development.

I recognize the special celebratory event organized by the Government of Ghana under the auspices of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance to appreciate UNDP's longstanding support to the country's transformation agendas. It was refreshing and encouraging to note the very touching expressions of the impact of UNDP's work on people's lives and in making national institutions work.

These accomplishments could not have happened without the collective effort of our staff whose professionalism and continuous dedication to work helped position UNDP as fit for purpose. We also recognize the contribution of our national and development partners whose support for our programme implementation helped made a difference in the lives of Ghanaians. We look forward to your continuous support and partnership as we seek to empower more lives and contribute to a more resilient Ghana in 2017.

The 2016 elections in Ghana took a good part of our strength and support in very significant ways. Working with our partners, UNDP supported initiatives that boost public confidence and participation in elections, and increase trust in political parties and election results. These initiatives were facilitated by the quality of UNDP's partnerships particularly with UNOWAS and the Electoral Commission throughout the year.

Support to other national stakeholders like the National Commission for Civic Education and the National Peace Council was also high on our priority list to drive the peace agenda in the country. We are happy to observe the dividends these efforts have yielded as Ghana witnessed yet another peaceful and successful election and transfer of political power, consolidating the country's democratic stature. We acknowledge the support from USAID, EU and the Governments of Canada, Norway and Denmark toward this feat.

Our support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Ghana as well as the country's climate change agenda and disaster risk reduction is well articulated in this publication. It's another demonstration of how the UN system works with government, private sector, civil society groups and financial institutions to help Ghana address global development challenges that have implications for the country.

Our shared effort at ensuring a conducive and productive work environment has yielded positive results, making the Ghana Country Office more efficient, effective, accountable and transparent in service delivery.

The development of a new programme cycle (2018 -2022) within the framework of a new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) gives us another opportunity to streamline our programmes to effectively respond to emerging development challenges that help eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion in the country.



# Women's Political Participation —a Catalyst for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Ghana

Jennifer Asuako, Gender Analyst at UNDP

Women constitute more than half of Ghana's population (51.2%). Without their participation in the public discourse or decision making process, it would be difficult for Ghana to achieve sustainable development. Unfortunately, their participation at all levels of decision making is very low. This can be attributed to patriarchy or male dominance which is a key aspect of the Ghanaian social system. The woman's role and status are recognizably inferior to those of the man in almost all aspects of social, political and economic life. Custom, law and even religion have been used to rationalize and perpetuate these differential roles to the extent that women themselves seem to have accepted and internalized them. It is worth noting that the legal frameworks of the country give equal opportunities for both men and women to register to vote, to exercise their franchise, and to stand to be elected as presidential candidates, members of Parliament or Assembly representatives in both local and national government structures.

The promotion of Gender Equality and women's empowerment was the third goal set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but also one of the goals that evaded the world, including Ghana. Women are still very much at the periphery of political, economic and social decisions and rely most often on decisions made by others regarding their lives. In spite of efforts by Governments both in the past and present as well as civil society organizations, women's participation in political leadership in Ghana is still very low compared to other African countries. Currently (as at 6 December 2016), Ghana has only 31 of its 275 parliamentarians as women with less than 30% being Ministers of State and District Chief Executives. This can be attributed to factors such as leadership roles which are still seen as being more masculine, indicating societies should be led by men, thereby relegating women into the background of political decision making in Ghana. In addition, the unequal playing field created by political parties disadvantage women. Women also do not have the required resources for political campaigns and electoral processes coupled with an uninformed public about women's human rights and contribution to development.

In a recent African Human Development Report (UNDP, 2016), women's political voice and leadership has been recognised as a key driver in advancing gender equality. Women's political participation and representation in governance according to the report, have long been taken as key indicators of the general level of public sector effectiveness and accountability in a country. When more women are involved in politics and leadership positions, women's rights, priorities, needs and interests are less likely to be ignored or silenced. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 also acknowledges this fact and therefore has a target to "Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life".

Ghana is a signatory to various regional, continental and international frameworks and has pledged in various forums and platforms its commitment to promoting gender equality and women empowerment. For instance, Ghana has signed and ratified the Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and has pledged its commitment to support the advancement of women in the continent, as well as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Articles 8, 29 and 43 of the charter mandate Member States to adopt legislative measures to guarantee the political rights of women, create necessary conditions for their full and active participation in decision making processes and structures at all levels as a fundamental element of democracy, and to encourage same in electoral processes. Member states are also to ensure gender parity in representation at all levels including legislatures and take imperative measures to educate women to be able to perform their roles as political leaders and decision makers.

Some efforts have been made so far and others are underway to achieve these objectives, but a lot more has to be done if we are to meet the targets and achieve sustainable development. This can be done by learning from pacesetters like Rwanda and Senegal with the commitment and support of all stakeholders including government, political parties, MPs, and civil society through targeted policies and interventions. Every election in Ghana provides an opportunity for us to provide the needed guidance and support to the few women who would vie for political leadership at the local, constituency or national levels to enhance their participation in democratic processes and nation building.



Mr. Tegegnework Gettu(L)

Hon. Hanna Tetteh (R)

In Ghana, UNDP has been supporting national efforts and capacity building for sustainable human development through a number of interlinked programmes that cut across Democratic Governance and Peace Building, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth. Different programmes have been delivered in line with Ghana's development strategies, anchored within the broader context of the 'UN Delivering as One' under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

These efforts have helped empower lives and contributed to a more resilient Ghana through eradicating extreme poverty, promoting gender equality, bridging inequality, promoting representation and participation in decision making at all levels and building credible national institutions.

It has also helped reshape Ghana's commitment and response to a future that is environmentally friendly and naturally sustainable.

Moving forward, UNDP will continue to support Ghana to achieve its strategic priorities in advancing its democratic dispensation, improving access to justice, protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, promoting peace and strengthening social cohesion while empowering women, youth and people with disabilities.

### Notable achievements in Ghana

Some of UNDP's flagship projects/ programmes in Ghana include support for the establishment of Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Ghana Stock Exchange, Ghana Commodity Exchange, Kakum National Park, Ghana Tourism Training School, National Peace Council and the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms.

We have also supported the strengthening of Ghana's democratic dispensation and access to justice through the establishment of Legal Aid Centres in all regions. Additionally, UNDP has supported economic empowerment of women through micro-credit schemes and several livelihoods support programmes as well as Entrepreneurship training, EMPRETEC and Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF).

Our policy support has included the development of national and district human development reports, national statistics and data, which have promoted evidence-based planning and inclusive growth.



Present at the event were members of the diplomatic corps, members of parliament, heads of government ministries, departments and agencies, private sector, philanthropy, civil society and staff of UN agencies.



## Some beneficiaries of UNDP's work in Ghana



Madam Ama Osaah of Tweapease in the Amansie Central District of the Ashanti Region is one of the thousands of women who benefitted from a microfinance scheme that targets the productive poor implemented by Odotobri Rural Bank with support from UNDP.



Amina, a resident of the Damankunyili Community in Ghana's Northern Region, is a beneficiary of UNDP's support for an agro-processing facility that is helping create jobs and empower women. From this, she supports her children's education and provides for her family's needs.



Mr. Daniel Amponsah Gyinayeh, a cocoa farmer in Kasapin of the Brong Ahafo Region is one of 9,600 smallholder farmers who have benefitted from UNDP's ESP project by adopting sound farming practices that reduce climate change and improve the environment.



In Kenyasi No. 3 in the Brong Ahafo Region, more than 20 women support themselves and their families by processing 'Gari' fortified with soybeans, margarine and salt. UNDP supported their training and provided machinery for the 'Gari' processing.



## Consolidating our thought leadership

Through our Policy Dialogue sessions and Social Good Summit platforms, UNDP continues to consolidate its position as a thought leader and knowledge broker in support of Ghana's development. Since August 2016, UNDP has organized four such high-level multi-stakeholder engagements.

### 1. Maendeleo Policy Forum on African elections

UNDP organized the maiden Maendeleo Policy Forum in Accra, bringing into sharp focus election experiences in Sub-Saharan Africa. The aim was to examine the general trends and challenges faced by African countries in organizing democratic and peaceful elections, and at the same time, identify opportunities for the future.

The panelists shared insights on key election challenges including political intolerance, restrictions of the political space, violation of fundamental human rights, inadequacies of electoral management bodies, tailor-made legal framework and inopportune constitutional modification, as well as election-related violence.

Convened by the UNDP Regional Service for Africa, the Maendeleo Policy Forum is one of UNDP's contributions to the search for workable solutions to existing and emerging development challenges in Africa. It was first launched in 2015 to provide space for leaders, researchers, policy makers, development practitioners and other interest groups to debate on critical issues confronting the continent.



L-R: Mrs. Charlotte Osei, Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, Dr. Brigalia Bam and Mr. Denis Kadima

The keystone of the forum was a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo. The panel comprised three of Africa's finest practitioners in the area of election administration and electoral assistance. They included Dr. Brigalia Bam, a member of the AU Panel of the Wise and Former Chair of South African Independent Electoral Commission; Mr. Denis Kadima, Executive Director of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa; and Mrs. Charlotte Osei, Chairperson of Ghana's Electoral Commission.



Audience participation at the forum

"While elections may have become a common feature in the majority of African countries today, it is important to recognize that these elections have impressively contrasted in their quality and impact on democratic governance and political stability" - Tegegnetwork Gettu, UNDP Associate Administrator.

Some of the more than 150 participants of the forum, including development partners, political party representatives, civil society, UN agencies, the media as well as research and academia, also shared perspectives on overcoming election challenges in Africa.



## 2. “Nkitahodie” Policy Dialogues

“Nkitahodie” - a Ghanaian vernacular for “dialogue” is apt for the description of the series of discussion platforms UNDP established to offer global perspectives and local insight to address critical development challenges in Ghana. In October 2016 alone, UNDP and partners organized two “Nkitahodie” Policy Dialogues in Accra.

### Women participation in political processes in Ghana

The first of the UNDP “Nkitahodie” Policy Dialogue sessions created the space for honest and critical reflection on gender equality and women’s participation in Ghana’s political processes. The aim was to engender women’s support and promote their inclusion and participation in political processes at all levels. UNDP organized the event jointly with Sheroes Foundation and the Gender Center for Empowering Development, GenCED with funding from the Government of Canada.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin, Executive Director of Abantu for Development, included some of Africa’s finest gender advocates such as Madame Fatou Diop, President of the National Gender Parity Observatory in Senegal, Mrs. Hamida Harrison, Convener of the Women’s Manifesto, Ghana and Dr. Ekuru Aukot, Former Chair of selection panel, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of Kenya.

The forum came on the heels of Ghana’s unimpressive number of women in parliament, currently standing at 30 out of 275 MPs representing below 11%. This situation places Ghana behind Rwanda and Kenya and only 150 out of 185 in the Inter-Parliamentary Union ranking on women representation in parliament across the world.

Participants identified the following as some key challenges to Ghana’s progress: absence of affirmative action law, lack of effective campaigning, a patriarchal mindset, inadequate funding, lack of mentoring support and inadequate information.

Some of the more than 200 participants, including development partners, astute female politicians across Africa, aspiring female parliamentarians in Ghana, political party representatives, civil society, UN agencies and the media also shared perspectives on attaining gender equality in political processes and pledged support for female aspirants in the December elections.

### Engagement with Political parties on climate change

Ahead of the December 2016 elections, UNDP has engaged with political parties in Ghana on the Paris Agreement on climate change and its considerations in political manifestos and development policies for the country. This took place during the second “Nkitahodie” Policy Dialogue held in Accra.

“As Ghana heads for election this year, this dialogue seeks to provide an opportunity for political parties to share with key stakeholders how they plan to address the issues of climate change”, says Mr. Mulugeta Abebe, UNDP Deputy Country Director. Engagement with political parties, who serve as critical change agents, is necessary to spotlight climate concerns and to get political commitment to mainstreaming these in development processes.

More than 180 persons participated in the policy dialogue together with representatives of key political parties including the National Democratic Congress (NDC), New Patriotic Party (NPP), Convention People’s Party (CPP), Progressive People’s Party (PPP) and the People’s National Convention (PNC). Representatives of the political parties shared core policy initiatives from their manifestos that seek to address climate change and environmental issues confronting the country.

The dialogue also benefited from insights of Prof. Chris Gordon and Mr. Seth Osafo, Environment and Climate Change Experts, through their presentations and moderated discussions with political parties and participants.

Currently, UNDP is supporting the Government of Ghana to develop an implementation action plan for Ghana’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to meet both the national and international commitments of the country.

*(See page 18 for other ways UNDP is supporting Ghana to meet her climate change commitment)*

### 3. The 2016 Social Good Summit in Ghana



Recognizing that the voices and ideas of concerned citizens connected by social media and technology can be powerful forces for change, UNDP in Ghana partnered with Guinness Ghana Breweries Limited, the EIB Network and AIESEC to host the 2016 Social Good Summit in Accra.

Held under the theme: “Connecting Today. Creating Tomorrow.”, the event focused on the role of youths and the manufacturing industry in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana. The 2016 Social Good Summit in Ghana brought together more than 150 youths and actors in the manufacturing industry as well as civil society to deliberate on how to apply social media and technology to promote sustainable development through a moderated panel and audience discussion.

This year’s event was the third in the series since 2014 when it was first launched in Ghana. Key discussants included Mr. Kordzo Sedegah, UNDP Economics Specialist; Mr. Gabriel Opoku-Asare, Corporate Affairs Director, GGBL; Mr. Kwami Ahiagbenu, Executive Director, Pensplusbyte; Ms. Sandra Agyekum, AIESEC President and Mr. Emmanuel Edudzi, Executive Director, YES Ghana.

Last year, the Social Good Summit events helped launch the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in a record 109 countries where UNDP works. This was accomplished through discussion events and flag-raising ceremonies, with huge gatherings of students, art exhibitions and the unveiling of paintings.

Building on the success of last year's launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, UNDP offices around the world are creating partnerships to make the 2016 Summit a truly inclusive, global platform for exchanging ideas and engaging with communities for a sustainable world. In New York, the 2016 Social Good Summit was held on 18th and 19th September examining the impact of technology and new media on social good initiatives around the world.

Held annually during the week of the UN General Assembly meeting, the Social Good Summit unites a dynamic community of global leaders and grass-root activists to discuss solutions for the greatest challenges of our time. The Social Good Summit continues to grow in impact and reach to unite global citizens to unlock the potential of technology for sustainable development.





Mr. Louis Kuukpen, UNDP Assistant Country Director for Programmes gave the welcome address



Mr. Klaus VonBackustein, Chief Operating Officer of the EIB Network addressed the summit



A section of student participants at the 2016 Social Good summit



Mr. Gabriel Opoku-Asare, Corporate Affairs Director at Guinness Ghana Breweries Limited shared some thoughts on the role of industry in SDGs implementation in Ghana



Mr. Kelvin Odanz, Marketing and Public Relations Director of AIESEC launched a Ghana Youth Speak initiative during the summit



# Support for the 2016 Elections in Ghana

Peaceful elections facilitate development and enhance investor confidence in the economy for positive growth. To sustain such progress in Ghana, UNDP has been supporting initiatives that boost public confidence and participation in elections, and increase trust in political parties and election results.

## 1. Strengthening a transparent and inclusive electoral process

Since 1992 when Ghana turned into constitutional democracy, UNDP has positioned itself as a trusted and impartial partner in leading the UN's effort to support Ghana to further consolidate the gains of her democratic stature. Under its electoral cycle support, UNDP has made significant contributions by building the capacities of the Electoral Commission and other national electoral stakeholders responsible for the credibility and the inclusiveness of the electoral process.

In preparation for the 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, UNDP supported the Electoral Commission to identify critical capacity gaps constraining its effective functioning and to develop a responsive strategic plan. This support helped bolster the EC's commitment to undertake many reforms to reposition the institution to enhance the integrity of electoral processes and the ultimate acceptability of electoral outcome.

UNDP also supported the Electoral Commission's determination to enhance transparency in electoral results transmission and collation by abolishing its "Strong Room", which had been used for the coordination of elections results with controversies. In its stead, the EC introduced a National Collation Center (NCC) to coordinate results from the various constituencies. The transmitted and verified results were made accessible to all, including officials from the EC, political party representatives, the media and other stakeholders to receive the results collectively. With funding support from the Government of Canada, UNDP assisted the EC to implement the key electoral reform of establishing a more transparent and inclusive result collation process at both the national and local level.



For the NCC and each of the 275 Constituency Collation Centers, a projector and screen were procured to provide real-time access to results to the public as they were being collated at the local level.

Furthermore, UNDP facilitated the Electoral Commission's endeavor to enhance the transparency of the electoral process and improve information sharing. This support enabled the EC to establish a direct channel of communication with presidential candidates by organizing a closed door dialogue on the rules of engagement with presidential candidates and their running mates to ensure a clear understanding of the election process, key changes in the law, what they could expect on Election day, the role of agents, transmission of results and security provisions. Additionally, for the wider public, UNDP supported the EC to educate the voters through a publicity campaign that involved the erection of two billboards for each region and the dissemination of twenty-nine thousand posters.

The EC identified at least eighty-one constituencies as hotspots with the probability of election related violence. Thus UNDP, with funding support from the Canadian Government, and in collaboration with the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), and Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Centre (KAIPTC) provided specialized intensive security training for elections officials working in the identified hotspot constituencies. This support contributed to reinforcing the security measures implemented, which ultimately ensured that the December 7<sup>th</sup> elections were peacefully and successfully conducted.



## 2. Building capacity for peaceful elections

The relative peace in Ghana has particularly fostered national development. Peaceful elections over the years have engendered a boost in investor confidence for positive growth. Peacebuilding is a vital ingredient in forestalling electoral and political violence. This is another area where UNDP's support has been significant.

UNDP has been assisting actors in the national peace architecture, specifically the National Peace Council (NPC) to drive the peace agenda in the country. UNDP with support from other development partners including the EU and USAID strengthened the capacity of actors in the national peace architecture to prevent and manage electoral and political violence for consolidated peace in Ghana.

In fact, UNDP supported the National Peace Council to facilitate a dialogue session with peace stakeholders including governance institutions, media and civil society to evaluate their roles in previous elections and learn lessons for Elections 2016.

In addition, as in previous elections, UNDP in 2016, has been building the capacity of board members of the National Peace Council and all Regional Peace Councils in mediation and the detection of early warning to adequately intervene and prevent any form of electoral and political violence. A manual is being developed to guide and standardize the training of actors in the peace architecture to mediate political and electoral violence.

In July 2016, UNDP with funding from USAID supported the launching of the National Election Early Warning and Response Group (NEEWARG) and Regional Election Early Warning and Response Groups (REEWARGs) in all ten regions, with the objective to developing strategies to mitigate threats to the peaceful conduct of the 2016 elections. Since their inauguration, the groups met periodically to review early warning and response mechanisms relating to the 2016 election.

UNDP with funding support from USAID assisted similar interventions with political parties, traditional and religious authorities, National Commission for Civic Education, National Media Commission and some civil society organizations to enhance peace education, strengthen early warning and institutional capacity in peacebuilding, promote issue-based dialogue and further enhance capacity of the media in election reporting. Furthermore, peace messages including a "Keeping an eye on the bigger picture" video commercial was broadcast on several TV stations by UNDP in collaboration with the National Media Commission and the National Peace Council.

USAID also funded UNDP's support to the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) to hold five dialogue series on democratic devolution to critically examine Ghana's "winner-takes-all" political system and offer alternatives of opening up spaces for power at the local level. These dialogues were used as a means of reducing election related tension.

Through its Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) project, UNDP has also been working closely with the Electoral Commission to strengthen the political party regulatory framework. Specifically, UNDP is supporting the efforts of the Commission to set up and operationalize an office for its political parties' regulatory unit.

## 3. Promoting active participation of women and youth

Ahead of the general elections, UNDP supported initiatives to promote women's active participation both as voters and candidates, and encouraged the political participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Training and awareness programmes have been organized to strengthen the capacity of women and the youth to actively participate in the elections. To bolster the 29 female candidates who won in 2012, UNDP undertook a gender campaign, "#MoreWomenInParliament" to raise awareness on the importance of encouraging more women to participate in political activities and governance as well as to increase the visibility of capable women ahead of the 2016 General Elections in Ghana.

(Continued on next page)

From short videos and dramas broadcast on TV stations and streamed online, social media flyers, car stickers and brooches, several affirmative calls were made on the public to highlight the value of having more women in parliament. The Gender campaign was run in collaboration with Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED) and the women groups of the political parties especially those participating in the (J-PASS) project.

#### 4. Establishing the Women's Situation Room

UNDP also facilitated the establishment of a Women's Situation Room (WSR) in Ghana with technical support from The Angie Brooks International Centre (ABIC) and with funding from the Government of Norway, the Government of Canada, UNOWAS, and UN Women. The WSR mobilized women and youth for their active participation in peaceful democratic electoral processes. The WSR-Ghana is owned by Ghanaian women and led by five Ghanaian CSOs namely; Abantu for Development, Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED), The Women's Manifesto Coalition, Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations and YWCA.

It was an initiative to support the expertise and experience of women and youth networks to rally, harness, lead peace initiatives and actions that create a conducive environment for the 2016 election processes. WSR Ghana engaged with key electoral stakeholders such as the Police, the National Peace Council, Religious and traditional leaders, the media, youths, Ministers of state, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations.

A Contact Group of Eminent Ghanaian Women were selected based on a criteria agreed upon by the women groups. Additionally, three Eminent African Women were invited by conveners of Ghana's WSR to support the National Eminent Women in managing the Physical Situation Room. The Room had a toll free number as an early warning and response mechanism where the Eminent women guided by political and legal analysis, advocated for peace using mediation.



The WSR in Ghana also organized a 10,000 women march for peace across all 10 regions in Ghana with women from communities, women's groups, youth, women leaders of the various political parties participating and sending a message to the Ghanaian public that they want peace, before, during and after the elections. WSR has also organized inter-party youth and women dialogues to advocate for their commitment to peace. Under this initiative, 120 focal persons were recruited across the country to cover all the identified hotspots and report on early warning signals. 10 Regional Hubs were established with Women and Youth Coordinators and their deputies to mobilize and engage local women, youth and communities to participate in the process for peaceful elections.





## 5. Peace dialogues and constituency engagements on election 2016

As part of efforts to ensure peaceful and credible polls in Ghana, UNDP with funding from USAID supported the National and all Regional Peace Councils to hold peace dialogues and constituency engagements with political party representatives across the country. The nationwide engagements, which were also supported by the Electoral Commission (EC) and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) took place between October and November 2016, and involved all 275 constituencies.

UNDP officers joined key focal points of the Peace Council, NCCE and EC in most places for the dialogue sessions. Below are scenes from some of the sessions.



*At Kwabre East District of the Ashanti Region, UNDP Country Director Mr. Dominic Sam (seated first from left) joined the National Peace Council in an engagement with political parties on peaceful elections in Ghana*



*In Atiwa, the Member of Parliament for the area, Hon. Kwasi Amoako-Attah (seated front right) participated in the event*



*A political party representative shares a thought at Suhum*



*The Peace Council led the dialogue in most venues including Akim Oda in the Eastern Region*



# Toward a responsible and responsive media in Ghana

## 1. Forum on responsible social media use

Ahead of the 2016 polls in Ghana, UNDP and partners supported the maiden public forum on free and responsible use of social media in the country. The event, organized by the National Media Commission sought to identify and harness the beneficial use of social media to deepen Ghana's democratic credentials.

“Educating citizens and voters on the responsible use of social media to promote positive and responsible citizen engagement during the 2016 electioneering process is vital”, said Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director during his brief remarks at the forum. The Chairman of the National Media Commission, Mr. Kwesi Gyan Apenteng praised UNDP for mooted the idea and mobilizing resources and partnership for the implementation of the maiden forum.

The event funded by the Government of Canada was also supported by the British High Commission, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Australian High Commission and the United States Embassy. Through a moderated panel discussion, the public forum drew lessons from Kenya's use of social media in intelligence gathering and citizen engagement as well as opportunities to improve its responsible use and reach in Ghana.



*The forum witnessed the participation of civil society, journalists, media organizations, missions, telecommunications network operators, some political parties and development partners.*

A communique issued at the end of the forum recognized the need for unfettered access toward a responsible use of social media as well as improved digital literacy in Ghana. It also called on regulators and security agencies to put in place appropriate framework and measures to ensure that social media use is not interfered with.

## 2. Workshop on responsible elections reportage in Ghana

UNDP also partnered with the Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) to organize a dialogue platform for journalists on their roles and responsibilities toward a peaceful election 2016 in Ghana.



*A section of participants at the media workshop*

This formed part of UNDP's effort at consolidating peacebuilding in Ghana during and after the general elections. “The media has a critical role to play to ensure that the 2016 polls take place in an atmosphere that helps to consolidate the country's democratic stature in the continent”, said Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director.

The workshop brought together several stakeholders including representatives of the Electoral Commission, National Media Commission, Ghana Journalists Association, National Peace Council, Private Newspaper Printers Association of Ghana, media practitioners and Journalists.

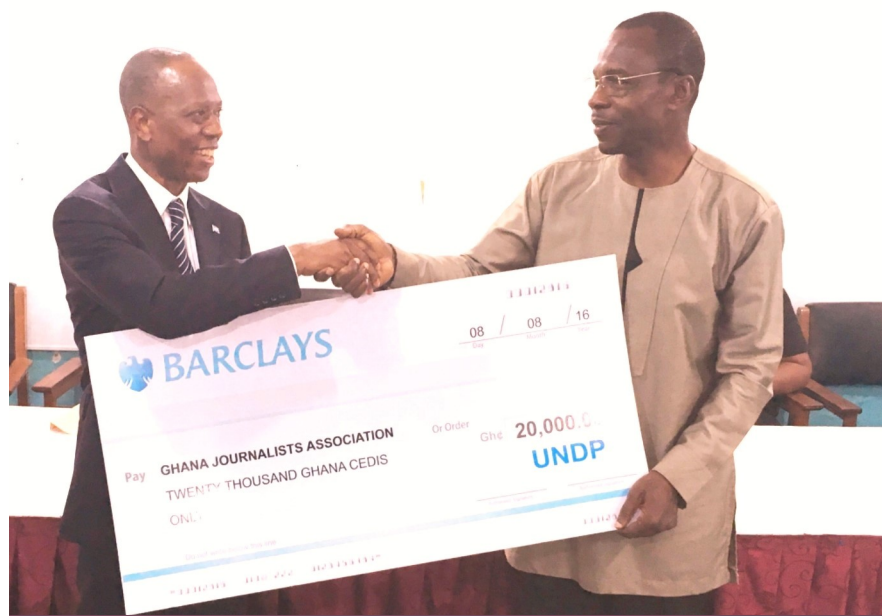
In his keynote address, a media academician Prof. Kwame Karikari entreated journalists to be guided by the core principles of accuracy, responsibility and objectivity in their reportage.

Other speakers included Ambassador Kabral Blay-Amihere, Dr. Doris Dartey, Commissioner at the National Media Commission, Mr. Akwasi Agyemang, President of Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association, Most Rev. Professor Emmanuel Asante, Chairman of the National Peace Council and Madam Georgina Opoku Amankwa, a Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission.



### 3. Promoting development reporting in Ghana

UNDP's support for the media in Ghana has included capacity building for journalists and media practitioners as well as support to the Ghana Journalists' Association to award excellence in development reporting. UNDP has been a longstanding partner of the annual Ghana Journalists' Association (GJA) awards that promotes professionalism and high journalistic standards.



Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director (left) presents a cash donation to Dr. Affail Monney, GJA President in support of the 21st GJA awards

In 2016, UNDP stepped up support to the 21st edition of the GJA awards by increasing the funding for the award in the category of 'Best Development Report on the SDGs'. Several advocacy materials on the global goals were also disseminated among the patrons of the event that took place at the Banquet Hall, State House in Accra.

UNDP also offered training to dozens of journalists on the Sustainable Development Goals and to promote their incorporation in development reporting for social change. This initiative, also supported by UNESCO and the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), was implemented by the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) under its

Media and SDGs Project from August to October 2016.

Prof. Kwame Karikari, a Media Expert and an SDGs Advocate offered the two-day intensive training that included journalists from various media houses across Ghana.

Following this, some of the trained journalists received a small grant to research, produce and broadcast or publish stories on the SDGs. Successful journalists were invited to submit their works for consideration for awards.

The judging panel settled on Mr. Abdul Hameed Amponsah of Radio Peace in Winneba as the overall winner. He received GH¢ 6,000 while Mr. Umaru Sanda Amadu of Citi FM and Miss Nina Abena Antwi-Kusi of the TV3 Network, the first and second runners-up received GH¢3,000 and GH¢2,000 respectively. In addition, they each received a plaque and a certificate of merit.



Mr. Bossman Owusu, UNDP Communications Analyst (left) presents an award to Mr. Umaru Sanda Amadu of Citi FM at the Ghana International Press Centre where the event occurred.

In 2017, UNDP looks forward to deepening the media support on development reporting to improve public knowledge on the Sustainable Development Goals and to promote social change.

# Advocacy on the SDGs

The launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was accompanied by the need for increased awareness and knowledge sharing among the public. Successful implementation of the goals would depend largely on broad stakeholder support, anchored on information dissemination that fosters social change. With this goal in view, UNDP through partnerships stepped up efforts to improve access to SDGs information by leveraging various platforms. Besides the public engagement during the Social Good Summit and the GJA Awards, UNDP also partnered with the Millennium Excellence Foundation for SDGs advocacy during the Millennium Excellence Awards held in Kumasi.

To help the public better appreciate and relate to the SDGs, UNDP translated the global goals into Akan and Dagbani (local languages) with translations into Ga and Ewe in the offing. These materials have been distributed to the public through civil society and youth groups including AIESEC.

## 1. Outreach on the SDGs with High Schools

In November 2016, UNDP joined other UN agencies in an outreach programme that sought to help senior high school students become familiar with the work of the UN and the Sustainable Development Goals. Participating schools included the Assin Manso Senior High School, Aggrey Memorial A.M.E Zion Senior High School and the Cape Coast School for the Deaf, which also included some visually impaired students. More than 1,800 students benefited from the outreach organized by the UN Communication Group and facilitated by Ms. Cynthia Prah, National Officer of the UN Information Centre, Mr. Bossman Owusu, UNDP Communications Analyst and Ms. Hannah Ghanson, Programme Assistant of the UN Volunteers.



Taking centre stage at each session was discussions around the 17 global goals and the role youths can play for their attainment. The team also engaged with the students on the mandate of the UN in general, the work of UN agencies in Ghana and volunteering opportunities that exist within the system. The students who were elated about the opportunity to interact with UN staff paid rapt attention to the discussions and shared perspectives on what the various SDGs mean to them. Leaving no one behind, Braille version of the Sustainable Development Goals was also available to help visually impaired students share thoughts on the goals. The deaf also benefitted from sign language interpretations on the global goals. The team also answered dozens of questions posed by the students, ranging from career opportunities within the UN to the work of the various UN agencies in Ghana. The students and the schools' management appreciated the opportunity for the engagement and hoped that there will be more in future.

The outreach programme forms part of UN4U initiative which seeks to bring the United Nations close to students. Previous engagements targeted students in the Ashanti, Northern and the Volta Regions of Ghana.



## 2. UN Volunteers embark on community advocacy on the SDGs.

A two-day retreat was organised by the United Nation's Volunteers (UNV) under its Field Unit's (FU) Planned Priority Result for 2016, to foster capacity building and networking amongst serving UN Volunteers. The retreat was held from 14- 16 September at Akosombo in the Eastern Region, under the theme "Being Agents of Change in our Society".

In view of UNVs commitment to support the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the retreat team also spent time engaging with adjoining communities on the global goals. They interacted with more than 500 community folks, most of whom had very little or no knowledge about the SDGs or the predecessor MDGs. The team took the opportunity to educate the residents who received the message with enthusiasm.

The engagement was extended to the Akosombo main lorry station, the main market, and two basic schools. The feedback from this exercise calls for a more community level collaboration and education. Going forward, UNV is hoping to use its retreats to support UNDP Programme clusters and the entire UN System in getting feedback from the direct beneficiaries of their interventions. Also participating in the retreat was Mr. Louis Kuukpen, UNDP Assistant Country Director for Programmes and other interns serving at UNDP.



*Scenes from the SDGs advocacy in Akosombo*





# Support on climate change and disaster risk reduction

UNDP has supported climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) related activities in Ghana since 2008. This focuses on the areas of capacity building, institutional strengthening, policy development and improved coordination, alongside concrete downstream interventions to demonstrate climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities. Through its Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme, UNDP has supported community-level initiatives to address the local aspects of climate change.

## 1. Climate change related policy, mainstreaming and planning

UNDP has facilitated stakeholder engagement/consultation, high-level policy dialogues, and provided technical and financial support to a series of key national processes aimed at mainstreaming climate change and DRR into development planning, develop policies and plans, and meet Ghana's international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These include the following:

The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), have undertaken a process to **mainstream** climate change and DRR into national and district development plans and budgets. Climate change was also fully integrated into the Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda.

Following a comprehensive stakeholder process that begun in 2010, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was approved by Cabinet in June 2013. The vision of the Policy is *"to ensure a climate resilient and climate compatible economy while achieving sustainable development through equitable low carbon economic growth for Ghana."* The Policy adopted a sectoral approach to tackle climate change, taking into consideration the cross-sectoral nature of climate change and its effect on the economy and society. As a second phase of the Policy, the Government developed the **National Climate Change Policy Strategies** (NCCPS) in 2014.

This document outlines a set of specific initiatives and programmes in the form of an Action Programme for implementation.

Ahead of the climate change negotiations that took place in Paris in December 2015 and led to the adoption of a new global climate agreement, Ghana submitted its **Intended Nationally Determined Contribution** (INDC) to UNFCCC. In summary, Ghana committed to reduce carbon emissions by 15% by 2030 compared to business as usual scenario unconditionally (with national resources), and an additional 30% conditionally (with external support). The INDC includes 20 priority mitigation programmes and 11 priority adaptation programmes, for a total budget of \$22.6 billion.

DRR considerations have been fully incorporated into the NCCP, which recognizes that "more than 80% of the disasters in Ghana are considered to be climate-related". The process to revise Act 517, which led to the establishment of NADMO, is well advanced and puts more emphasis on disaster prevention, with the creation of a National Disaster Management Fund. UNDP also technically contributed to the development of the **Ghana Plan of Action on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (2011-2015), and the revision of the National Contingency Plan.**

Other UNDP supported initiatives in this area include: development of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; development of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Action Plan; development of policy briefs on climate change in 11 sectors (Agriculture, Business and Finance, Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Energy, Forestry, Health, Infrastructure, Vulnerability and Livelihoods, Tourism, Water and Coastal Zone management); development of the Initial and Second National Communications to UNFCCC with related National Greenhouse Gases Inventories; technical and capacity building support to improve GHG data collection and analysis).

## 2. Climate change mitigation

UNDP has been partnering with the Energy Commission on a series of energy related interventions that are contributing to reduced carbon emissions. In the area of **energy efficiency**, a programme to transform the refrigerating appliance market was successfully implemented. A regulatory framework centered on the introduction by law of a standard and labelling regime, together with a complete ban on the importation of used refrigerators, was developed and is being enforced.

A turn-in and rebate scheme is being implemented to give incentives to consumers to replace their old inefficient refrigerator with a new efficient one. About 8,000 refrigerators have been sold through the rebate scheme and 25,000 used refrigerators confiscated. This has led to total electricity savings of 38,692MWh (sufficient to power 12,897 households in a year) and 79 Kilotons CO<sub>2</sub> for the next eight years.



In the area of **renewable energy**, UNDP has been promoting the use of improved cookstoves (development of standards and awareness creation), and the use of solar PV systems for irrigation targeting four communities in the Northern Region. UNDP is also facilitating a South-South Cooperation initiative with China that will lead to the development of a Renewable Energy Master Plan and the transfer of renewable energy technologies.

## 3. Climate change adaptation

In the area of **health**, UNDP supported the Ministry of Health to integrate climate change into health risks management at the national and district level, specifically looking at malaria, diarrheal diseases and meningococcal meningitis.



In the area of **water resource management**, UNDP is starting the implementation of a programme that will enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural livelihoods to climate impacts and risks on water resources in the northern part of Ghana. This will be achieved through improvement of water access and also by increasing institutional capacity and coordination for integrated water management to support other uses of water resources, especially for the diversification of livelihoods by rural communities.

UNDP financed concrete adaptation activities in 5 pilot districts, including: construction of foot bridges to facilitate movement of people and to prevent their economic isolation during flooding; relocation of artisans to an area that is less flood-prone; afforestation of forest zones to serve as buffer zones of vegetation between the river edge and the areas that are farmed; dry season gardening; promotion of alternative livelihood activities especially in communities affected by disasters.



## 4. Disaster management

UNDP's key goal has been to shift the national agenda from a reactive emergency response approach to a more pro-active disaster prevention approach. Technical and financial support have been provided to all the stages of the disaster management cycle.

In the area of **disaster risk reduction**, UNDP supported a wide array of activities, spanning from institutional strengthening to capacity building and awareness creation. Key examples are the creation of National and Regional Platforms on DRR to promote coordination at sector and regional levels; the development of a country wide hazard mapping that covers the broad geographical distribution of disaster exposed areas for key hazards and supported awareness and advocacy campaigns at different levels (ministers, local authorities, national and district audiences) on prevention of various type of disasters. Others include the preparation and dissemination of building guides for lightly loaded structures in flood prone areas, with training of local artisans, mason and building inspectors as well as training of Disaster Volunteer Groups.



*A portrayal of community response to disaster*

In the area of **disaster preparedness**, UNDP supported the review of the National Contingency Plan for a more coordinated and effective response to disasters; the development of District Disaster Management Plans in Greater Accra, Eastern and Northern Regions; and facilitated a national simulation exercise (floods scenario) to enhance the capacity of national and international institutions to quickly and effectively respond to emergencies.

In the area of **disaster response and recovery**, UNDP has been providing logistical support to NADMO to respond to disaster and emergency situations, such as floods in Northern Ghana in 2008-2010, floods in Accra in 2011, influx of Ivorian refugees and Ghanaian returnees from Libya. UNDP also provided recovery support and alternative livelihood activities to communities affected by disasters in Northern Ghana.

UNDP has also partnered with NADMO to define how to systematically forecast the surge of floods - and drought, and how to issue timely **early warning** to populations at risk, with clear roles and responsibilities of national and local institutions. To achieve this, UNDP and NADMO developed an Early Warning System Master Plan; developed flood and drought hazard, vulnerability and risk maps at the national level and in 10 pilot sites; and developed and installed an I.T based Early Warning communi-



*Automated rain gauge station located in Techiman*

cation system that operates at the NADMO Headquarters, Regional Offices, and 10 pilot districts. This system will allow NADMO to early detect the surge of disasters and to issue early warning information with significant lead-time to the regions and the districts.

## 5. Accessing climate finance

As early indicated, Ghana's INDC has a budget of \$22.6 billion from 2020 to 2030. It is clear that scaled-up resources need to flow faster and on a large scale if development is to proceed in the context of climate change. Climate finance constitutes a clear opportunity but Ghana, like most African countries, has not been able to fully tap into it yet.

To some extent, these difficulties can be attributed to the complexity and uncertainty that have governed international climate finance mechanisms so far. At the same time, it is also clear that there are local finance related capacity gaps that need to be addressed, if Ghana aims at benefitting from climate finance.

This is even more important considering the opportunities provided by the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, which was formally established during the 2010 UNFCCC Conference in Cancun to become the new operating entity of the Convention's financial mechanism. It is expected to become the main global fund for financing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in developing countries in the coming years. As such, it will channel significant funding to developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

UNDP, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), is currently implementing a **GCF Readiness Plan** to address gaps and needs to make Ghana 'ready' to access the GCF. The project is targeting the Ministry of Finance (accredited as National Designated Authority for the GCF) and other institutions that will act as National Implementing Entities and will be able to access the GCF.

UNDP has been exploring various forms of climate finance. In particular, UNDP provided capacity building opportunities, as well as technical and financial support for the development of a **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA)** on access to clean energy through market-based solutions, which is expected to mobilize \$60 million.

UNDP has also been promoting **private sector** investments in climate change mitigation projects. Public finance alone is indeed insufficient to meet the needs of a full transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. For example, in partnership with the Ghana Investment Promotion Center and the Private Enterprise Federation, UNDP and the Ministry of Environment have developed a NAMA Investor Guide, which provides a one-stop-shop on investment opportunities for NAMAs in Ghana.

## Our New OneICTBox

The UNDP Ghana Country Office in 2016 changed its entire IT Infrastructure from traditional Servers, Router, Switches, and Firewall to a OneICTBox platform.

### What is the OneICTBox?

The OneICTBox is a state-of-the-art data centre in a portable rack. It was designed based on an innovative "Office of the Future" approach and provides all setup and services and spans from ISR router, virtual servers, Link Load Balancer, WAN acceleration, security services, wireless, IP Telephony and space for virtual servers such as Active directory, file server and Antivirus servers.



### Why we chose the OneICTBox

**Simplicity:** The box has features that make managing the connectivity of the office and mission's critical operations very easy, at the same time empowering the IT personnel to properly manage the IT infrastructure through a user-friendly interface.

**Good control:** The box takes full control of the ICT infrastructure making it easy for IT personnel to monitor traffic, block applications, enforce restrictions and policies, to ensure proper utilization.

**Security:** The box relies on 24/7 protection from CISCO which guards it against viruses, malware and malicious attacks.

**Adaptability:** The box has a resilient nature which comes in handy during mission critical situations. Packed in a compact shock-resistant rack and backed-up by a Smart-UPS battery, it significantly improves the flexibility and continuity of the Country Office operations regardless of the use, case scenario or physical location.

**Sustainability:** OneICTBox is truly a sustainable ICT tool dedicated entirely to the UNDP core values due to its minimized energy consumption and compatibility with Solar Energy solutions.

Daniel Arhinful Mills, UNDP ICT Associate



## 1. The Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) Project

J-PASS is a collaborative project jointly owned by the UNDP, the Electoral Commission (EC) and five selected political parties in Ghana including the Convention People's Party (CPP), the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the New Patriotic Party (NPP), the People's National Convention (PNC), and the Progressive People's Party (PPP).

Since its inception in September 2015, the Project has been working to strengthen the internal democracy of the parties, support inclusive participation and mainstream gender in the activities of the parties. The Project Management Unit (PMU) also supports the Electoral Commission to strengthen its capacity to monitor the activities and level of adherence of the political parties to the regulatory frameworks governing the operations of political parties in Ghana. The following are some important activities and results of the project:

### Support for the Development of Communication Policy and Strategy

Following the successful assessment study conducted in the last quarter of 2015, J-PASS has provided technical assistance to the political parties to develop their communication policy as a means of strengthening internal democracy and improving the participation of their members at the district and constituency levels. Three consultants supported the development of the policies through a consultative process with the political parties. The final policy documents have since been delivered to the parties with the recommendations awaiting implementation following the successful general elections in December.

### Membership Database

J-PASS has supported the parties to have a comprehensive and full membership database that make for good record management, provide platform for intra-party communication, and assist the parties to mobilize resources through membership dues and other forms of payments. In close consultation with the political parties, the technical

specifications of the database including the fields and common standards were concluded. Following the successful development of the database, political parties expressed satisfaction and approval of the program which is ready for deployment and use. This aside, other equipment and gadgets including laptops, servers, UPS and docking stations have also been supplied to the political parties.

### IT and Database Training

To help the political parties administer and manage the database, J-PASS supported the training of 10 IT and Database Managers, comprising two persons from each party. A customised training manual was developed by the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE), which also conducted the 10-day intensive training from July 19 to August 1, 2016.

### Development and Dissemination of Manifesto

J-PASS also supported the parties to develop and disseminate their manifestos to the electorates. The manifestos help the public to hold the parties accountable to their promises.

### Political Party Monitoring Tools

J-PASS provided technical support to the Electoral Commission to design political party monitoring tools and monitor compliance of the Political Party Act 2000 that govern their operations and activities.

### Gender Policy and Strategy

The five political parties received technical assistance from J-PASS for the development of gender and inclusive policies. Each policy was accompanied by an implementation strategy. Two consultants worked with the five parties on both the policies and the implementation strategy. J-PASS also provided support to the parties to be gender sensitive and responsive.

The Project also trained selected party executives across the 10 regions. A training manual was developed for the training of 108 party executives with equal representation from the five parties.

## Support for Policy Dialogue on gender equality and women's participation in political processes

J-PASS partnered with SHEROES Foundation and the Gender Centre for Development (GenCED) in the organization of the Gender Policy Dialogue which sought to provide an open, frank and inclusive platform for political parties, stakeholders, candidates, academia and policy makers to reflect on the level of women participation and gender equality in Ghana politics. **(Read more about the policy dialogue on page 7).**

On December 1, UNDP supported the Electoral Commission to organize a Presidential Dialogue with all the Seven pairs of Presidential Candidates. The Dialogue provided an opportunity for all flag-bearers and their running mates to ask questions and seek clarification on any aspect of the electoral process including the different stages of the Election Day activities. It also afforded the EC the platform to update all candidates on the new legal changes and to address any concern from the Candidates ahead of the Election Day. The Dialogue was hugely successful restoring trust between the EC and all the presidential candidates.

## 2. Transparency and Accountability Project

As part of the public service integrity program, UNDP has supported the National Ethics Advisory Committee to develop integrity compliance tools such as the Code of Compliance Survey Questionnaire, Gift Policy and Statement as well as Gift Register Template. These will be rolled out to Govern-

ment Ministries, Department and Agencies through their Ethics officers aimed at strengthening integrity in the public service.

Twenty-five (25) officers from various Customs Points across the ten regions of the country and from Headquarters have been trained on strategies for promoting Ethics and Integrity in the Customs Division. This occurred through a five-day capacity building workshop that ended with a media engagement, during which the corruption reporting mechanism was made available to the public. UNDP supported the training of the officers and provided the related manuals.

As part of the **Justice Sector Reform**, SOPs for Case Management Systems (CMS) as well as training plans for 10 Legal and Justice Sector institutions have been developed and validated for use. Key staff of all the justice sector institutions have been trained on the SOPs with support from UNDP and USAID. Change champions have been trained to lead change in all the institutions using the change management strategy that has been developed.

UNDP has supported the **Legal Aid Scheme** to increase public awareness of its presence through the development and nationwide dissemination of 18,000 pieces of stickers with three different messages. In addition, to expand access and improve Legal Aid service delivery for the poor and vulnerable, especially women, five regional consultative meetings have been held with providers of Legal Aid and ADR services in the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Northern, Eastern and Greater Accra Regions.



Some beneficiaries of the Customs training supported by UNDP. (Seated from L-R: Nana Chinbuah, Head of UNDP Governance Cluster, Mr. John Vianney Kuudamnuru, Commissioner, Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority and Mr. Charles Ayamdoo, Director of Anti-Corruption, CHRAJ)



### 3. The Environmental Sustainability and Policy for Cocoa Production Project

The Project, initiated in 2013 by UNDP in partnership with Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and with funding from Mondelēz International Cocoa Life program, was completed in September 2016.

Key accomplishments include support for the mainstreaming of sustainable environmental practices on farms, strengthened environmental policies and institutions as well as demonstrated landscape-wide community-based approaches to environmental conservation as contribution to reducing deforestation in the cocoa sector. The Project has benefitted more than 9,600 smallholder farmers by boosting their appreciation for sustainable production and helped manage the natural resources in cocoa landscapes.

The project distributed over 800,000 economic tree seedlings such as Cedrella, Mahogany and Ofra to cocoa farmers to provide shade for their cocoa crops, improve soil moisture to boost productivity and increase hope for higher incomes through the sale of the commercial tree species when harvested. More than 49,000 hectares of cocoa farms in 7 districts were involved. The project also assisted communities to plant seedlings along waterways and protected areas, resulting in forest rehabilitation and enrichment plantings of about 8,500 hectares of land. “The tree planting component is not only beneficial to the ecosystem and in combating climate change, but also provides alternative income sources from the timber and non-timber forest products produced”, says Kwame Asa-Ofori, a cocoa farmer and beneficiary from Suhum in the Eastern Region.

Considering the positive impacts of the project, Mondelēz International Cocoa Life Program, UNDP and COCOBOD agreed to continue the partnership until 2020, for a new phase of the project that will take stock of the lessons learned in the past 3 years and expand interventions to new districts. The commitment to continue to address deforestation issues and increasing sustainability of cocoa landscapes remain highly significant to UNDP.

### 4. SWITCH Africa Green Project (SAG)—improving cook stoves for agro-processing

The SAG Project aims at promoting sustainable consumption and production practices (SCP) for an inclusive green economy in six African countries. In Ghana, it is implemented in the Volta, Central and Upper West Regions with support from the European Union through United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with UNDP, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and other regional and national partners. Project interventions have included support for the construction of modern improved cooking stoves for several rural communities in the three regions.

These improved cookstoves for agro-processing were designed and built by the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), one of the seven grantees receiving funds from the project, with the others focusing on capacity building for MSMEs in e-waste management, promotion of biogas technologies, and industrial symbiosis.

Mansah Aziedu, a 35-year-old mother of two in the Adaklu District of the Volta Region is one of the more than 1,000 rural beneficiaries of the Project. She says, “ We really like the new stoves. It makes our work very easy and fast. With the new stoves I can process 150kg of gari within four hours, unlike the traditional stove which requires about two days. Now, we don’t experience any heat and smoke related diseases. We also don’t spend too much money on fuel. With GH¢ 25 worth of firewood, I can process 150kg of gari in a day”.

Ama Afadziwah, a fish seller in the Ekumfi District of the Central Region, shares a similar story. “I am satisfied with the improved cook stoves; it is safe, convenient and saves me time. In the past, I used to process ten baskets of fish in five days. But now, thanks to the improved stoves, I spend less than two days processing the same quantity”.

These developments demonstrate Ghana’s progress toward achieving a green economy, reducing carbon emissions and improving forest conservation as well as improving livelihoods of rural communities.



## 5. China-Ghana South-South Cooperation on Renewable Energy Technology Transfer

With funding from the Government of Denmark, UNDP is implementing a south-south cooperation initiative to facilitate the transfer of China's rich experience and technology in renewable energy to Ghana. This is done to increase universal energy access by effecting off-grid community-based electrification, increase the share of renewable energy and promote productive uses of energy.

Under the project, a Renewable Energy Master Plan is being developed for Ghana to set clear targets for the development of the various renewable energy resources in the country and define actions and strategies to be undertaken to achieve these targets while ensuring sustainability. This is being done by a task force of national experts led by the Energy Commission. The draft will be subjected to a series of stakeholder consultations and will be submitted to Parliament in 2017. The project has engaged two groups of stakeholders that are key to ensure the long term development of renewable energy technologies in Ghana, while the Government puts in place appropriate enabling environment, i.e research, academia and private sector.

The Energy Commission has signed collaboration agreements with Ghanaian research institutions to provide technical support to the project and in particular for the setting up of pilot demonstration sites for solar, wind, mini-hydro, improved cookstoves and biogas. More importantly, the project is facilitating the establishment of formal partnerships between these institutions and Chinese research institutions for long-term collaborations to share knowledge in the sector and create learning opportunities.

In mid-2016, a meeting was held to initiate the engagement of private businesses in Ghana and China involved in renewable energy technologies, and develop demonstration projects to help scale up the adoption of appropriate business models for renewable energy. This would lead to Ghana's promotion of renewable energy technologies with a strong focus on private sector development and inclusion.

## 6. The Community Resilience through Early Warning system (CREW) Project

The CREW Project has completed the testing of an effective flood and drought Early Warning system at the NADMO HQ and in the 10 pilot districts. The Community Resilience through Early Warning system uses open, free of charge satellite-based meteorological data and provides basic flood and drought forecast for all the pilot areas. It exists in two systems:

1. An expert system that collects data, calculates forecasts and presents all relevant data. This can only be accessed by trained expert forecasters with meteorological and hydrological background.
2. A web dissemination tool called "Dashboard" that visualizes specific warnings and flood hazard information through a dedicated website.

As part of efforts to reduce flood and drought vulnerabilities in the CREW pilot areas, a number of disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures are currently being implemented in all the 10 pilot sites below.

Pilot District	Type of DRR Measure
Kumasi Metropolitan	Construction of 3m X 2m X 12m Double Cell Box Culvert and Earth Channel Improvement in Asuoyeboa
Techiman	Construction of 1.2m Diameter Precast Pipe Drain & Single Cell 2.5m X 1.5m Box Culvert & Earth Channel Improvement in Techiman
Cape coast	2.0 Km Earth Channel Improvement & Raising of Embankment in Kwaproh
Shama	Construction of Double Cell 3m X 2m X 12m Box Culvert and Earth Channel Improvement in Shama-Anlo Beach
Fanteakwa	Construction of 2.5m X 1.5m X 12m Single Cell Box Culvert and Earth Channel Improvement in Fanteakwa-Bososu
Akatsi	Construction of 200m Offsite Dam & Earth Channel Improvement in Akatsi-Torve
Accra Metropolitan	Gt. Accra Region-Alogboshie: Construction of a 25m Span Foot Bridge
Lawra District	Provision of irrigation facilities for over 75 vulnerable groups
Bawku West District	Construction of 11 boreholes in 11 communities in the Bawku west district
Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo	Construction of 11 boreholes in 11 communities in the Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo district

## 7. Green Climate Fund Readiness Project Establishes Reporting and Verification Systems for climate finance

UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Finance has established reporting and verification system and tools to enhance Ghana's climate financing architecture under the implementation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Project in the country. This is to ensure that funds for climate-related activities are monitored and reported appropriately.

The Fund was established in 2010 as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to disburse \$100 billion per year to address climate change impact in developing countries.

The established tools include a "climate financing budget tracking tool" and a "project prioritization tool".

These are expected to assist public sector planners, budget officers, research, statistics and information management officers to identify climate related expenditures in the budget documentation as well as facilitate the selection of the projects to be submitted to the GCF for funding.

The project has since trained 20 finance officers from Ministries, Department and Agencies in the use of the tools and also supported the development of operational manual to facilitate the work of the Ministry of Finance (accredited to the GCF as National Designated Authority) staff on the operations of the Fund.

The National Designated Authority has selected Ecobank Ghana Limited and Social Investment Fund as the first two National Implementing Entities (NIE) under the implementation of the Green Climate Fund Project (GCF) in the country.

The selection of the two entities will help Ghana to access the Fund directly in the country. The two entities are currently being supported in the GCF accreditation process.

## 8. Response Capacity of Stakeholders Strengthened through Simulation Exercises

UNDP participated in a national simulation exercise on flooding in Accra and neighbouring communities, facilitated by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee to test the preparedness and response capacity of national institutions and local/international humanitarian actors in disasters.

UNDP's contribution was delivered through the Advocacy and Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness project implemented jointly with the National Disaster Management Organization and, with funding from the Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

The exercise comes on the heels of the technical and financial support the UN System provided to the Government of Ghana to update the National Contingency Plan which establishes the institutional framework for the country to respond to disaster events in a timely, effective and coordinated manner.

Lessons learned from the simulation exercise were validated and consolidated through a debriefing workshop organized at the NADMO headquarters. In addition, participants identified areas that needed improvement to further strengthen preparedness among all humanitarian stakeholders in the event of disaster response.

In addition to the national simulation exercise, the Advocacy and Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness in Ghana project has implemented three other simulation exercises in the Upper West, Ashanti and Western Regions covering flood, water contamination and chemical spillage respectively. Three district-level simulation exercises were also conducted on flood, forest fire and disease epidemic (cholera outbreak) in Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District, Dormaa Municipality and Ketu South Municipality respectively. The Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo exercise was jointly implemented with the WASH in Disaster Prone Communities Programme.

A debriefing session followed each simulation exercise, during which stakeholders were encouraged to mainstream lessons learned into their disaster preparedness planning and emergency response arrangements to facilitate timely and appropriate decisions and actions in real disaster situations.



### Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)

Ghana is a party to several international agreements on chemicals, such as the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions as well as the Montreal Protocol. Recognizing the threats mercury can pose to human health and the global environment, the country initiated practical steps to become a party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 24 September 2014. The ratification document of the Convention is before Parliament, and the process is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

In Ghana, main mercury releases are thought to originate from artisanal small-scale gold mining activities as well as through the disposal (e.g.: land filling, incineration) of certain products containing mercury. Such products include: auto parts, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and medical products, among others. In the health sector, mercury is common among diagnostic equipment such as thermometers and sphygmomanometers (blood pressure devices).

The objective of this 2-year project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is to undertake a Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) to enable the Government of Ghana to determine the national requirements and needs for the implementation of the Convention. Total budget is US\$ 200,000.

Key activities and results include:

1. Develop a National Mercury Profile, which provides a comprehensive inventory of sources of mercury emissions and releases, as well as other relevant information.
2. Develop a National MIA Report, which summarizes the challenges, needs and opportunities to the implementation of the Convention, with specific recommendations to Government.
3. Raise awareness on the environmental and health impacts of mercury.

The project, implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency with technical support from UNITAR, will seek synergies with a UNDP/Ministry of Health project focusing on reducing mercury releases from the health sector and in particular from medical waste.

### Increased resilience to climate change in Northern Ghana

The project seeks to address climate change-induced decreases in the availability and increasing unpredictability of water resources, and the associated negative impacts of these trends on the livelihoods of rural communities. The main objective is to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural livelihoods to climate impacts and risks on water resources in Northern Ghana.

The objective will be achieved through the following three complementary outcomes:

1. Improved planning and management of water resources taking into account climate change impacts on surface and groundwater sources.
2. Climate resilient management of water resources by communities in Northern Ghana.
3. Enhanced diversification of livelihoods of communities in northern Ghana.

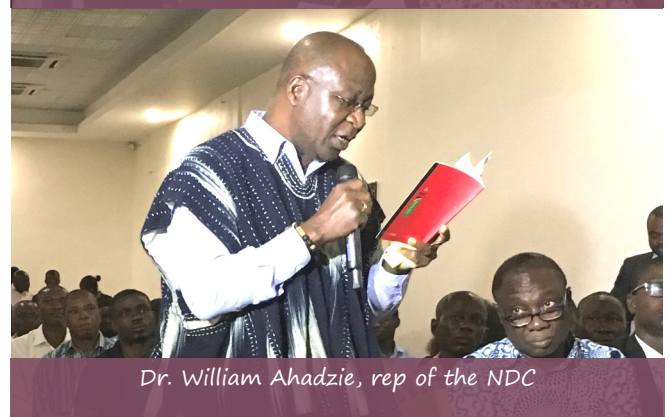
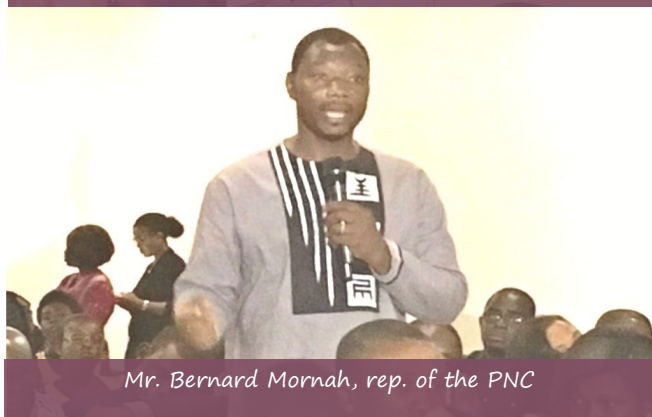
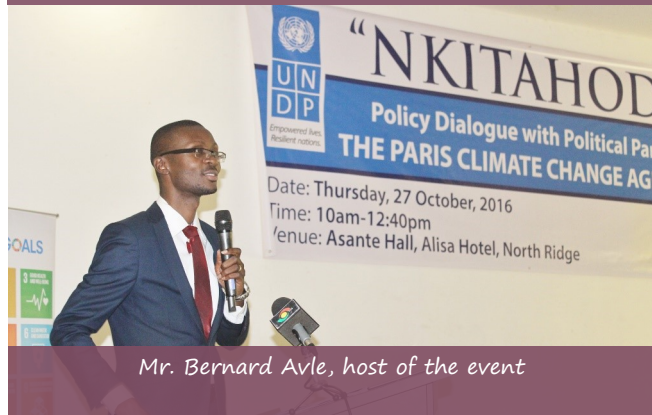
The project is executed by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) in partnership with UNDP, with close cooperation with sectoral ministries and agencies, NGOs and the private sector. Total budget is US\$ 8,293,972 over the project duration of four (4) years.

The project targets the three regions in the northern part of Ghana, namely the Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions. Building on local consultations of community groups, civil society, local government institutions, NGOs etc., and based on an assessment of district vulnerability, the project will target the following ten districts: Savelugu, Bole, Zabzugu-Tatale (Northern); Bawku, Bawku West, Bongo, Builsa (Upper East); Nandom, Nadowli, Sisala East (Upper West).

The project is expected to directly benefit 60,000 people from the target project regions and indirectly benefit over 8 million Ghanaians living along the Volta River Basin. It is also expected to increase access to water and diversification of livelihood activities and increase income generation by 30% of the households in the target project communities.



*Some speakers at the political party dialogue on climate change. (See page 7 for story)*







*We look forward to the successful implementation of the SDGs in Ghana*





***“The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.”*** (Agenda 2030, paragraph 53). A recent experience from attending the Regional YouthConnekt Planning Event in Rwanda left me so impressed. Noteworthy is the spelling of connect with K and T at the end. K represents Knowledge and T, Technology.

YouthConnekt was initiated in 2012 by the Ministry of Youth and ICT in partnership with One UN Rwanda and other partners, to empower young people and connect them to the public, private sector and the civil society for economic opportunities. Aligned with the UNDP Youth Strategy and the Global Programme on Youth Empowerment, YouthConnekt provides an African context-specific approach to what works in addressing issues of youth unemployment and inclusion in socio-economic and political processes.

The initiative is made of 7 different but interconnected components.

1. **YouthConnekt Hang Out** is a Bi-monthly program which leverages ICT to connect the youth with their peers, leaders, experts and role models via media networks. A platform to INSPIRE and connect Youth to opportunities by sharing their dreams and challenges with government, developing partners, Private Sector and Civil society.
2. **YouthConnekt Dialogue** provides a platform for young people to address the issue of restoration of their identity and enhance unity and reconciliation that will free their hearts and minds and restore truth and trust given their history.
3. **YouthConnekt Convention** is an annual platform for the youth to showcase their potential for nation building. During the convention, there are exhibitions by youth companies as well as panel discussions on government programs. The YouthConnekt Convention is connected via internet with the National Dialogue for the voices of the youth to be heard.
4. **YouthConnekt Champions** celebrate young Rwandan achievers. An initiative by the first lady and her Imbutu (Seed) Foundation invites applications from the youth for an in-depth vetting, voting and shortlisting. This biennial awards is currently one of the most prestigious awards in the country recognizing exemplary youth, leaving a real impact in their communities.
5. **YouthConnekt Boot Camp and Award** is a 2-day event aimed at encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship amongst the youth. Three best innovators from all 30 districts (90 innovators) are trained in development of business and are given opportunity to pitch their projects. The 30 innovators are awarded (500,000Rwf) with the best 3 being awarded (3, 2 and 1 million RwF respectively).
6. **YouthConnekt Month & Holiday Programme** targets youth in and outside school. It takes place during vacations at the district level. The youth are mobilized to conduct patriotic and voluntary activities. They construct bridges, schools, sport grounds etc.
7. **YouthConnekt Mentorship** connects the youth to role models, resources, skills and economic opportunities.



All these function in a broader business friendly environment. Support systems include: Business registrations online within a day, Start-ups for young business is interest free, Provision of ICT infrastructure and Provision of youth friendly and very resourceful youth centers. YouthConnekt is a holistic and integrated approach to youth engagement and empowerment. It is a catalyst for spiking innovation and motivation to serve and develop the country. It is simple but holds the potential to visibly transform the lives of the youth and the economy of the country. YouthConnekt is a model for youth engagement worth emulating.



# Access and Delivery Partnership, utilizing new approaches to solve old problems



Belynda Amankwa, UNDP Programme Specialist,  
Access and Delivery Partnership

Access to medicines is an age old problem. However, in recent times there have been new calls to address this issue. This renewed interest is laudable because over 400 million people worldwide lack access to health care, medicines and diagnostics according to recent WHO and World Bank reports. Behind these statistics are individual stories of lives marred by diseases which can be treated, prevented or cured by health technologies they simply have no access to.

Issues that affect access to health technologies are complex and require novel integrated approaches to deal with them. Thus in 2013, with funding from the Government of Japan, UNDP initiated the Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) to systematically address the bottlenecks associated with the access and delivery of new health technology in low and middle income countries.

The ADP's approach has been to strengthen 6 critical pathways that impact access to health technologies namely legal and policy issues, implementation research, safety issues, supply chain issues, resource allocation and strategic information and evidence. The ADP partners- UNDP, TDR (the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases) and PATH work on these critical areas based on their comparative advantages.

UNDP supports countries to develop an enabling legal and policy framework that improves access and delivery of health technology, WHO-TDR supports countries to improve their capacity in implementation research and PATH supports countries to address issues related to resource allocation, procurement and supply chain.

In Ghana, the ADP is strengthening the policy and legal framework for health technologies, implementation research, and improving pharmacovigilance. In 2016, ADP supported the ministry of health to revise the national medicines policy. The national medicines policy (NMP) provides the needed framework to ensure 'universal, equitable and sustainable access to priority, efficacious and safe medicines and other health technologies of acceptable quality for all people living in Ghana'.



ADP assists LMICs to enhance relevant capacities for the introduction and scale up of new health technologies through six strategic, inter-related pathways



Furthermore, working with the Ghana Health Service, the ADP is strengthening the capacities of program managers to effectively deal with implementation bottlenecks associated with utilization of health technologies. In 2017, the Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) would consolidate achievements in the focus countries- Ghana, Tanzania and Indonesia to further strengthen access to health technology. Ultimately, health technology should be accessible to all who need it- be it a young adult with multiple drug resistant tuberculosis in Africa or a mother living with lymphatic filariasis in Asia; it is not a luxury, it is an imperative.

# Celebrating three decades of work life @ UNDP

Ms. Judith Ossom, Human Resources Associate, has spent 30 years of her life working at UNDP. Today, she looks back with fond memories and nostalgia as she recounts how it all started.

To her, it has been a great experience with lots of good lessons. Her career with UNDP began in May 1986, first as an Administrative Assistant and subsequently rising through the ranks to become the HR Associate, managing the HR unit successfully.

Judith has many happy moments in UNDP but her happiest was when the HR unit she single-handedly managed was declared irreprehensible after an audit. She remembers the big bear hug she received from Mr. Dauda Toure (the then UNDP Resident Representative) for that feat. When asked what has changed over the years in terms of recruitment, she said that UNDP's recruitment strategy has improved a lot due to proper documentation and fairness in the system.

UNDP has transformed Judith in many positive ways, as over the years, she has learnt to be nice and tolerant of others. She thinks this has contributed immensely to her successful career at UNDP. She attributes her strong sense of professionalism to learning to put personal problems aside and focus on her work. Judith's favorite supervisor was Denise Findley, who had the habit of apologizing whenever she went wrong and never failed to tell others of their wrongdoing.

At UNDP, Judith's career has been satisfying and progressive. She has developed herself in many ways. Today, she holds a Master's Degree in HR and certificates from various trainings in HR. Her advice to young professionals who aspire to be in her position is that they should be firm, truthful, and be who they are as much as possible, bearing in mind that hard work never kills. To Judith, her most treasured career experience is the one with UNDP.

On this occasion, management and staff of UNDP in Ghana celebrate Ms. Judith Ossom for her selfless dedication, hard work and competence over the past three decades. To her, we say Ayekoo!



Ms. Judith Ossom, UNDP HR Associate

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