

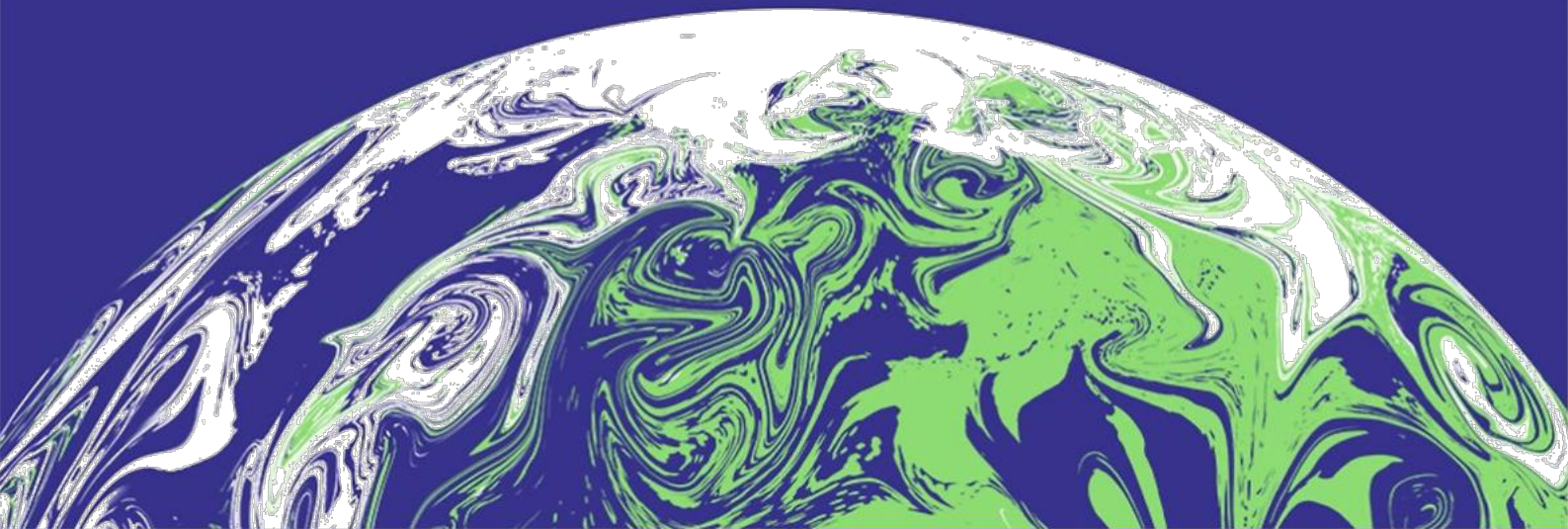


CONCEPT NOTE

Royal Dialogue

on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals:
A pre-COP26 event under the patronage of His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia
Ofori Panin, King of Akyem Abuakwa

On 26th & 27th October 2021
At Ofori Panin Fie,
Kyebe



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



Background

In December 2015, global leaders signed the Paris Agreement with the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. The Paris Agreement represents a set of international objectives for climate action embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and captured in the SDG 13 with countries committing to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”. Climate change impacts the other 16 SDGs and it is one of the most urgent areas of action required to give the world a good chance of achieving the SDG targets. In spite of the ongoing actions, the concentrations of greenhouse gases continue to increase. The world remains woefully off track in meeting the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and reaching net-zero carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions globally by 2050. The climate is already changing with devastating effects on ecosystems, infrastructure, health and livelihoods with developing countries, including Ghana being the least able to afford its consequences.

Later this year, the world will convene in Glasgow for the 26th United Nation’s Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP26). Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century and work together to protect and restore ecosystems. Countries affected by Climate Change are also encouraged to build warning systems, resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives, while developed countries are expected to make good their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year. The conference will also explore innovative ways to accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.

In support of H.E the President’s global role as Co-Chair of the Eminent Group of Advocates for the SDGs, the SDGs Advisory Unit and the Okyeman Environment Foundation (OEF) are organising a two-day event on Climate Change and the SDGs in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ministry of Finance, Ghana Climate Innovation Centre (GCIC), United Nations University-Institute of Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and the University College of Agriculture and Environmental Studies.



This event, dubbed the Royal Dialogue is being organized as a pre-cursor to the 26th United Nation Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP26) under the patronage of His Majesty, Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin, King of Akyem Abuakwa a major champion of Climate Change and Environmental issues in Ghana. The Event will bring together policy makers, civil society organisations, and business leaders, community and tradition leaders, and development partners as a progressive coalition to champion urgent climate action under the Paris Agreement and the accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

In Ghana, the position of traditional leaders between state and local communities allows them to function as development intermediaries. The power to mobilise their constituents to deal with socio-economic and cultural issues make traditional leaders important drivers for action on Climate Change and the SDGs. The event will help bring the voices of traditional leaders to bear on the national and international discourse on Climate Change and the SDGs.

Objectives

The overarching objective of the Royal Dialogue is to provide a forum for reflection and dialogue Climate Change and the SDGs and define collective actions at the sub-national level to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and Ghana's commitment under the Paris Agreement.

Specifically, the Royal Dialogue will:

- i. Mobilise support and action from traditional leaders, the private sector, civil society organisations and administrators at the sub-national level to tackle climate change and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.
- ii. Leverage their knowledge and expertise in finding smart interventions to tackle climate change and accelerate progress towards the SDGS.
- iii. Foster strategic partnerships with the aforementioned stakeholders to identify ways of scaling up investments necessary to enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- iv. Mobilise the chiefs, business leaders and the invited guests to become strong advocates for the SDGs and climate action.

Date and Venue



The event will be held on Thursday, 21 October 2021 at Ofori Panin Fie, Kyebi.

Expected Outcomes

- i. Create visibility to COP26 and the urgency of climate action at the sub-national level.
- ii. A declaration on Climate Change and the SDGs to be presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.
- iii. To form a progressive coalition to drive the implementation of the outcome of COP26.

Expected Participants

Government, Private Sector, Traditional Leaders, Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners and Local Community Leaders.



ROYAL DIALOGUE - TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

26TH – 27TH OCTOBER, 2021

DAY ONE

9:00 AM to 9:50 AM Arrival and Registration:

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM **OFFICIAL OPENING**

- Welcome Address – TBD (Representative from the Palace)
- Short Remarks – **Dr. Eugene Owusu**, Special Advisor on the SDGs, Office of the President
- Special Remarks – Hon. Minister MESTI / Executive Director, EPA
- Goodwill Message (Presidency of COP26) – British High Commissioner
- Royal Statement – **His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin**

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM **TECHNICAL & POLICY DIALOGUE**

Introduction of Key Points for Discussions among Key Stakeholders (based on thematic areas for COP26):

11:00 AM to 12 PM

- Government's position paper for COP26 – Rep from EPA/ MESTI
- Partnerships to secure global net zero by mid-century and keeping 1.5 degrees within reach - Role and Perspectives from Government, Private Sector and CSO

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM Discussions - Moderator: TBD

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

- Adapting to protect communities and natural habitats
Speaker 1 : An expert from Academia (TBD)
Speaker 2 : An expert from Ghana Wildlife Society
- Mobilising Innovative Finance –
Speaker 1 : An expert from Ministry of Finance
Speaker 2 : An expert from a development finance institution

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

- Discussions – Moderator: TBD
- Summary of Discussions - Moderator

DAY TWO

9:30 AM to 10:15 AM **WRAP UP OF DAY ONE** – Finalisation of the Declaration

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM **STATE DURBAR**

- Reading of the Declaration – Speaker TBD
- Presentation of the Declaration to His Majesty – Speaker TBD

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Field Visits

4:00 PM Departure to Accra



THE ADVOCATES



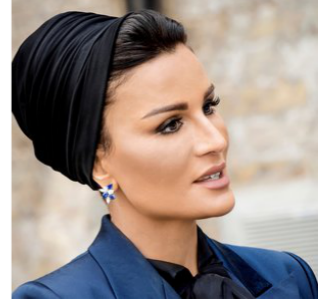
H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa
Akufo-Addo (Co-Chair)



H.E. Mrs. Erna Solberg
(Co-Chair)



Her Majesty Queen
Mathilde of the Belgians



Her Highness Sheikha
Moza bint Nasser



His Highness Muhammad Sanusi II
The Emir of Kano



Mr. Richard Curtis



Hindou Ibrahim



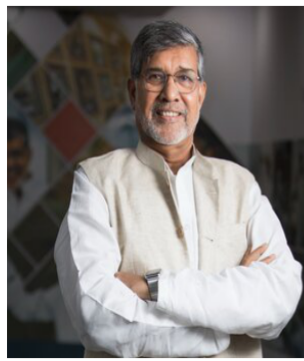
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Mrs. Graça Machel



Dia Mirza



Kailash Satyarthi



Edward Ndopu



Brad Smith



Valentina Muñoz Rabanal



Professor Jeffrey Sachs



Mr. Forest Whitaker