

**We, Business Leaders and high-level representatives of Business Associations, and Philanthropic Organizations having met in Accra for the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair,**

1. Agree that the 2030 Agenda is transformative, universal and places people and planet at the center and that the goals are interconnected by the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environment;
2. Emphasize that poverty in all its forms and dimensions poses the greatest threat to people and its eradication is an essential requirement for sustainable development. We are concerned by the high number of poverty related challenges and pledge to support government in its bid to fight and eradicate poverty;
3. Affirm our commitment to the tenets of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is the main Means of Implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We also recognize the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda;
4. Support the notion that more has to be done if the Sustainable Development Goals and its targets will be achieved as progress over the last three years of implementation has not been at the pace required and expected;
5. Reiterate the commitment of Businesses to support the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a call to ensure “**no one is left behind**”;

**Business Opportunity in Sustainable Development Goals Investment**

6. Note that the scale and ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals create a tremendous opportunity for the private sector to demonstrate the central role they play in human prosperity. Businesses will serve as an essential partner to meet the challenge of achieving the SDGs;
7. Affirm that the Sustainable Development Goals require an increased support of the private sector in solving some of the most urgent problems we face. Both company and institutional investors are required to contribute to the SDGs by making changes to their business operations;
8. Reiterate that the Sustainable Development Goals provide businesses with a new lens through which to translate the world’s needs and ambitions into business solutions. These solutions should enable companies better manage the risks, anticipate consumer

demand, build positions in growth markets, secure access to needed resources, and strengthen their supply chains, while moving the world towards a sustainable and inclusive development path;

9. Believe the Sustainable Development Goals presents an excellent opportunity for achieving equitable, prosperous and peaceful society while sustaining the environment;
10. Convinced that a business as usual approach will be a hindrance to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe the Sustainable Development Goals must be broken down in a manner that allows every individual to associate themselves with the goals;
11. Note that investing in the Sustainable Development Goals is not only good but also profitable.
12. Agree that there are business opportunities for Sustainable Development in areas such as Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Education, Plastic Waste recycling, Digital Toll Booth Collections, Smart Traffic Management and Data and Information provision;
13. Commit to support regulatory changes that support sustainable development. These include environmental regulation to address issues of environmental degradation, resource efficiency and negative social externalities;
14. Commit to shifts in our productions systems to ensure efficiencies through proper resource usage, reduction in waste in both resources and finance, improve labor productivity through universal education initiatives and gender empowerment and raising input productivity;
15. Commit to put in place mechanisms that ensure we can properly assess the impact that our operations have on the both people and environment;

### **Education: Growing a Green Economy**

16. Note that education has a catalytic impact on human well-being and thus the sustainability of our environment. We therefore agree that a fundamental change is required in the manner in which we think about education;
17. Note that the right kind of education has the power to solve our challenges by fostering the right type of values and skills required for sustainable and inclusive growth and peaceful living;

18. Note that culture and right environment can either promote or hinder learning. An environment that encourages the setting up of social centers such as bars and churches within residential areas poses great risk to learning. We commit to support government in developing and implementing policies to regulate the operations of social centers;
19. Note that society is dynamic and we struggle to keep pace with progress in technology and globalization. We must therefore inculcate in our curriculum the individual ability to access innovation and further development in order to adapt to the changing trends in industry;
20. Reaffirm that policy changes in the education sector should focus on curriculum and the skills needed by local industry;

### **Financing Sustainable Transportation**

21. Note that efficient transportation systems has the potency of supporting economic development;
22. Note that 15% of greenhouse gases emanate from urban transportation in Ghana. We therefore support the call for governments to invest in the multiple transportation options as the focus on road transport alone has the potential to derail economic gains made;
23. Note that Biogas has a number of applications including fuel for natural gas vehicles. The main environmental benefit is that fossil fuels like petrol and diesel that account for high emissions will be eliminated. Natural gas used as a vehicle fuel gives 20-30 % lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We therefore commit to support Government in a bid to develop and implement policies which seek to harness biogas as vehicular fuel;

### **Domestic Resource Mobilization**

24. Make a commitment to explore innovative ways to incentivize businesses and institutional investors, to take a long-term approach in their investment decisions with the public interest as a key consideration.
25. Commit to promoting sustainable corporate practices, including the integration of environmental, social and governance factors into company reporting as appropriate;
26. Note that Domestic Resources provide the biggest means of financing Sustainable Development in all its forms;

27. Note that tax unguarded incentives have the potential to distort Domestic Resource Mobilization. We commit to ensure that tax incentives will not be the primary determinants of our investment decisions. Instead, we commit to base our investment decisions on economic and commercial factors on one hand and institutional and regulatory factors on the other;
28. Reaffirm that government needs to create the enabling and regulatory environment that attracts entrepreneurs and investors;
29. Note the need to automate tax administration processes to enhance Domestic Resource Mobilization. Automation will also reduce the element of discretion on the part of tax officials and inadvertently reduce corruption. We therefore commit to support governments' efforts with the needed financial and human resources to automate tax administration;
30. Reiterate that in ensuring enhanced Domestic Resource Mobilization, government must have in place policies which require institutions to procure products made in Ghana as a first option;
31. Note that transparency and accountability should be the forebears of the policies and must lend themselves to public and civil societal scrutiny. Tax policies should ensure the predictability and equity of taxes in an effort to ensure that it does not lead to opportunistic tax avoidance and possible tax evasion;
32. Reaffirm that a key Domestic Resource Mobilization mechanism will be the establishment of more Local Impact Funds to serve not only as a base for supporting start-ups but also as a means of attracting bigger Capital Venture Investment;

### **Sustainable Agriculture**

33. Reiterate that food security is essential for economic sustainability. Without adequate country-owned and country-driven food security strategies, there will be considerable obstacles and additional costs to global, regional, and country-level economic growth. Agriculture policies need to encompass women and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to ensure **'no one is left behind'**;
34. Commit to support government's programs, which are sustainable and devoid of political undertones, which seeks to ensure food security. It is important to ensure that ultimately many impoverished areas do not become overly reliant on food 'hand-outs' but are able to create their own steady supply of food through the creation of agricultural refineries;

35. Note that sustainable agriculture is not dependent solely of climatic conditions but on properly laid down measures for continuous supply of water for crop production. Properly implemented irrigation policies play a critical role in ensuring adequate food supply everywhere. We commit to supporting institutions with the needed infrastructure for purposes of improving all year round irrigation, post harvesting systems,
36. Commit to push for urban farming and the creation of access roads to farming communities. We also commit to support the provision of storage infrastructure which ensures no food goes waste and farmers get a return for their efforts;
37. Note that in many countries, rural areas are home to the majority of people, most of whom are dependent of agriculture for their livelihoods. However, the rural areas are the areas most prone to infrastructure deficits such as access roads, electricity and information communication, all of which have profound effects on their livelihoods. We commit to supporting programs aimed at diversifying employment into non-agricultural activities and providing small scale producers with affordable access to technologies and infrastructure in an effort to accelerate poverty reduction;
38. Reiterate that effective infrastructure development has the potential to unlock wider economic growth, as shown by the rapid advances made in the mobile network coverage and the impact that effective public transport networks can have on cities. Moreover, green infrastructure promises to deliver myriad co-benefits, such as improved air quality, well-being, and education. We commit to support government in its endeavors to improve infrastructure development;
39. Commit to make research and development results on infrastructure and innovation available for the public good.

### **Ghana's Natural Resources**

40. Note that sustainable use of natural resources are the backbone of every economy. In using resources and transforming them, capital stocks are built up which add to the wealth of present and future generations. We therefore commit to support government policies that aim at sustaining our natural resources and environment.
41. We hereby adopt this as the outcome of the 2018 Accra SDGs Investment Fair