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PRESS STATEMENT

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Youth Champions to host a Citizens Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

The Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) will host the Citizens Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Wednesday, 29 August 2018 at Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipal Assembly Conference Hall, Nsawam. The aim of the forum is to disseminate the findings from the Citizens Report project - pioneered by African Monitor (AM), which the youth champions from YAG have been involved in for the past nine months.

The forum is set to bring together 100 participants from relevant civil society organizations, youth organizations, and district assembly's officials, Members of Parliament, community groups, religious bodies, the private sector and the United Nations (UN).

Over the past few months, the youth champions in Ghana – who were trained by AM in South Africa – have held citizens' hearings and through which citizens' voices were heard in three districts in Ghana in a bid to collect the Citizens Generated Data and to monitor the implementation of the SDGs in Africa.

This initiative aims to create awareness about the SDGs and to equip citizens, particularly the youth, to better demand delivery of services from their governments and to hold the government accountable; to improve development results and to improve policy responses to the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah, who leads the youth champions from YAG, said the citizens' hearings were really meaningful as they gave the marginalised communities a platform to fully engage, participate and monitor service delivery at a community level.

“Young people have a role to play in engaging people at the grassroots level and in communicating the goals to a wider society,” he said.

The citizens' hearings focused on Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 3 (Health), Goal 4 (Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 8 (Employment) of the SDGs.

The Citizens' Report was launched by AM in collaboration with YAG in November 2017 at the 1st African Youth SDGs Summit in Ghana. This is an initiative that aims to work with African citizens, civil society and young people from all over the continent to monitor the implementation of SDGs in Africa using Citizens Generated Data.

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For more information, contact Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah: cliffgyet143@gmail.com or +233274647543.