



**REPORT ON NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ACTUATE PROJECT IN GHANA**  
**JUSTICE D.F. ANNAN AUDITORIUM, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ACCRA**  
**AUGUST 2, 2021**



**PREPARED BY**  
**HATOF Foundation**  
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## **1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

HATOF Foundation, on Monday, August 2 2021, collaborated with the Climate Communications and Local Governance (CCLG) to organize a dual event on the launch of the CCLG and the National Dialogue on ACTUATE Project. The dialogue took place at Justice D.F. Annan Auditorium at the Parliament House of Ghana.

The dialogue was on the theme, "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: A collective Responsibility at the local level." The purpose of the dialogue was to raise awareness about the ACTUATE Project among lawmakers and policy-makers and present the Project as one of the local level initiatives addressing waste challenges through sustainable energy generation and collective responsibility, as the theme denotes.

As a collaborating partner of the ACTUATE project, HATOF's role is to support cultural and generational changes in thinking and understanding around the paradigm of a safe circular economy through awareness creation, social mobilization and environmental campaigns. Paramount to the activities of HATOF is to organize a national dialogue, bringing together a high-level state to support the uptake of the Project in Ghana.

This National Dialogue brought together over 50 participants, including Members of Parliament, local government authorities, political representatives, local green and waste organizations, the project partners, and reporters from selected media houses. The special guest of honour was Rt. Hon. Alban S.K Bagbin, the Speaker of the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Ghana.

This report provides summaries of remarks and addresses from stakeholders.

### **1.1 Welcome Address by Chairman**

The Chairman, Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boafo, who chaired the occasion, gave an opening remark. In his opening speech, he expressed his profound gratitude for being involved in the launch of CCLG and dialogue on the ACTUATE project. Dr. Boafo hoped to benefit immensely from the engagement. He acknowledged the relevance of the ACTUATE and urged all parties, especially the community and local people, to take sustainable climate actions and contribute to the investment and upscale of initiatives like the ACTUATE project. He further implored the participants to be leaders of change in the various local communities and to be mindful of the waste generated into the environment. He finally advocated that Ghana must strategically tackle its waste and sanitation issues by adopting sustainable actions that utilize waste as a resource and raw material to solve other communities' challenges.

### **1.2 Solidarity messages and remarks from Speakers**

The National dialogue was a reckoning event that brought the ACTUATE project into the limelight of state actors as one of the plausible climate actions taken at the local level with the overarching relevance and benefits of the biodigester demonstrator.

Speakers from the clergy, Ministries, Parliament and local government all reckoned that the message of climate change and its attendant effect must connect with the people at the local level. Reiteratively, they added that local actions must be fashioned out to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change on local business and other human-related matters.

The AMA boss, Hon. Mohammed Adjei Sowah expressed concern about the sanitation and waste challenges facing the Metropolitan Assembly and the urgent need to uptake actions at the community level with long-lasting, sustainable solutions.

The ACTUATE project was featured as one of such local actions that address the waste problem and climate change mitigation from the sustainable energy generation perspective in Ghana.

Speaking to the HATOF team on their impressions of the ACTUATE project, the Legal Advisor to the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Kofi Amoatey and the EPA boss, Hon. Dr. Henry, Kwabena Kokofu, said the ACTUATE project comes to them as one of many initiatives that have predominantly promoted local and community collaborations in the continuing national climate action that needs recognition and replication.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS AT HATOF'S ACTUATE NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

### **2.1. Overview of the ACTUATE Project**

Professor Kirk T. Semple, Director of RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE projects/Director of International Engagement, Lancaster University, introduced the ACTUATE Project and what it seeks to achieve. He addressed the importance of deliberating on the significant waste challenges faced by developing countries, including Ghana and Nigeria. Prof. Kirk propounded the need to change perceptions surrounding waste towards the waste to wealth ideology which acknowledges the management and optimization of waste to supply clean and sustainable water, food and energy in the bid to propagate and enhance circular economies in our local communities.

He reiterated the possibility of local communities to achieve the essential benefits of the waste-energy-food nexus propagated by the ACTUATE project in Ghana. He further delved into how ACTUATE was conceived out of an already existing project, RECIRCULATE and how these two projects promise to improve sanitation through a circular economy system. Prof. Kirk touched on how waste can be recycled and reused in different forms such as energy for light, gas for cooking and fertilizer for farming; and the commitments of project financiers and coordinators to invest and propagate the investment in these technologies.

### **2.2 Presentation on Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System/Recirculate**

The ACTUATE Project Coordinator in Ghana, Dr. Richard Bayitse, followed up with a detailed presentation on the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration System by presenting the trends of biogas development and the ACTUATE project progress in Ghana. He explained how the technicality of biogas technologies and various institutions engaged in biogas developments in Ghana. Dr. Bayitse went ahead to detail the biodigester construction, its components and functions, and the renewable energy components utilized by CSIR to power the biodigester in the new design.

The project coordinator then took the audience through the various activities undertaken by partners on the ACTUATE project and applauded the partners' commitment to the completion of the final output of the Biodigester Demonstrator.

### **3. CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chairman, Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boafo gave his last remarks by acknowledging the presence of the esteemed stakeholders and participants who are at the heart of Ghana's climate actions. He further appreciated the ACTUATE project partners for contributing to collective and high-level community participation in the Project's activities. He advised that local community representatives present at the dialogue take the opportunity to engage investors, ACTUATE project partners and community actors to invest in sustainable energy technologies that promote the 'waste is wealth' ideology in local communities.

Finally, the chair entreated project partners to avail these technologies to investors in Ghana to upscale them in rural areas, especially those faced with waste and energy challenges. He expressed his gratitude to members of parliament, speakers from the clergy, Ministries, Parliament and local government partners and wished a safe journey to the media houses and other participants.

The program ended at 1:00 pm as the media engaged with the speakers, followed by packed lunch.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

The growing cases of the new strains of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in some obstructions of HATOF's activities under the ACTUATE project. Though preparatory activities were delayed, the ACTUATE National dialogue has been implemented successfully. The dialogue was organized under strict adherence to the COVID-19 protocols; a limited number of persons in the auditorium, social distancing, wearing of nose masks, use of hand sanitizers and many more to prevent the spread of the virus. The successful engagements and dialogue with state actors have augmented the need for local actors to engage, invest, and upscale waste to energy technologies such as the Biodigester Demonstrator system to curb waste and sanitation menace in our communities and promote sustainable circular economies.

We at this moment thank all our partners, media houses, parliament representatives, state actors and other key participants including, the Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boafo, for facilitating the smooth National Dialogue of the ACTUATE.

## ANNEX 1: Pictures from the ACTUATE National Dialogue



*Sections of participants during the ACTUATE National Dialogue*



## ANNEX 2: AGENDA

### Agenda

#### LAUNCH OF CLIMATE COMMUNICATIONS & LOCAL GOVERNANCE-AFRICA, AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ACTUATE PROJECT

Theme: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: A collective Responsibility at the Local Level

**Date: Monday August 2, 2021    Venue: Justice D.F. Annan Auditorium, Parliament House    Time: 11:00am-12:30pm**

Opening Prayer	<b>Rev. Nicolas Appiah</b>	
Purpose of gathering and introduction of dignitaries	<b>Kwame Otupri Darko</b>	(3mins)
Chairman's Opening Remarks	<b>Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boafo</b> Presiding Bishop Methodist Church Ghana	(3mins)
Short Video on Climate Change	-	(2mins)
Welcome Messages	<b>Kofi Don-Agor</b> President CCLG-Africa	(5mins)
Solidarity Messages	<b>Hon. Henry Kwabena Kokofu</b> Executive Director, EPA	(5mins)
	<b>Mr. John Allotey</b> CEO, Forestry Commission	(5mins)
	<b>Hon, Mohammed Adjei Sowah</b> Mayor of Accra	(5mins)
	<b>Hon. Samuel Abu Jinapo</b> Min. Lands and Natural Resources	(5mins)
	<b>Hon. Dr. Kwaku Afriyie</b> Min. Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	(5mins)
Musical Interlude	-	(2mins)
Local Actions Addressing Climate Change from Sustainable Energy Perspective (the ACTUATE Project)	<b>Prof. Kirk Semple</b> Director of RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE projects/Director of International Engagement, Lancaster University	(10mins)
	<b>Dr. Richard Bayitse</b> ACTUATE Project Coordinator, CSIR-IIR	(10min)
Musical Interlude	-	
Special Guest of Honour Message	<b>Rt. Hon. Alban S.K Bagbin</b>	(15mins)
Launch of CCLG-Africa	Rt. Hon. Speaker/Most Rev. Boafo	
Chairman's Closing Remarks	Most Rev. Dr. Paul Kwabena Boafo	
Note of Thanks	PRO CCLG-Africa	
Closing/Media Interaction and Networking		(15mins)
<b>Moderator: Mr. Stephen Kwesi Acquah/Emmanuel Oppong</b>		