



**August 12, 2021**

**PRESS STATEMENT: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY- 2021**

On the occasion of the celebration of the 2021 International Youth Day celebration, the **Youth League of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG)** joins the numerous voices around the world to celebrate our gallant young women and men who are doing everything possible to survive and to contribute to the building of this world through hard-work, innovation and ingenuity even in the face of treacherous, repressive and hopeless global capitalist system. We say AYEEKO!

The theme for this year's celebration as put out by the United Nations (UN) is “**Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health**”, and this clearly shows that the success of the global effort at providing the nutritional needs of the people depends in large measure on youth participation.

Global capitalism has for reasons of profit invaded the area of agriculture in a bid to continue perpetuating its greed for profit and by so doing carrying out the following negative practices that have had negative consequences for the world food system:

- a) Increasing Monopoly of Mosanto-Bayer and other liked companies that control farm seed usage and force smaller farms to use their GMO seeds under very strict compliance laws and using the law to intimidate family farmer's rendering them poorer whiles collapsing other peasant farms and creating unemployment.
- b) Introduction of industrial agriculture which has displaced most young people from farms in rural areas and encouraged rural urban migration in search of jobs for survival. Many energetic young people have had to relocate to survive because what hitherto fed them and their families have been taken away from them with the introduction of industrial machines for profit purposes without creating any alternative for survival.
- c) Use of agrochemicals like soil conditioners, liming and acidic agents etc. Which the World Health Organization(WHO) has determined has determined to be carcinogenic and having negative health implications for all consumers around the world.
- d) Taking away farmers rights over seeds even though article 19 of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas adopted by the United Nations in December 2018 states that “the right to seeds includes the right to the protection of the traditional knowledge contained within seeds and the right of peasants to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed or propagating material.”



## SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SFG)

- e) Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds replacing farmers preserved seed and forcing them to be dependent on the GMO seeds in some cases forcing them into debts and suicides.
- f) Destruction of the environment and biodiversity using chemicals. I.e., weedicides and pesticides etc.

Today, it is reported that the worlds farmers produce enough food to feed about 10 billion people, and the world's population stands around 7.6 billion but yet about 811 million people go to bed hungry each night. What could account for this? According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Global Youth Unemployment Rate as at 2020 stood at 13.6% with that of Ghana hovering around 8.72%. This does not include youth under employment. This reveals that the participation of young people in economic activities is very minimal, and that the hopes and aspirations of most young people to have decent lives cannot be met. Why must it be so for a country that has natural resources and human capital in abundance? The answer to all these is global capital and to correct all these disparities and bring equity and fairness in the economic order is for the youth to channel their energies to rather transform our society into one that naturally spurs innovation, promotes biodiversity, encourages collectivity, truly champions equal rights and justice, and promotes economic democracy. The contradiction in the current socio-economic formation leaves us with only one viable alternative, Socialism is the way to go!

The Youth League takes this opportunity to congratulates the Socialist Forum of Ghana for metamorphosing into **Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG)** a fortnight ago at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Congress of the Movement. This historic feet saw about 300 young people from 13 out of the 16 regions of Ghana taking active part in the congress and showing their readiness to be part of a global struggle to defeat capitalism. We encourage young people around the world to arise and join the struggle wherever they find themselves in order to restore hope and dignity to the world.

Happy International Youth Day!

Viva Young People of the World!

Viva the Youth of Ghana!

Viva to Socialism!

Red Salute,

Oboe Baiden

**Leaders-Youth League**

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