

Solidarity message delivered by the reigning Child Sanitation Diplomat, Adjoa Gyakoa Appiah-Kubi, at the 34th Edition of the Annual Mole WASH Conference Series held at Jirapa in the Upper West Region on Monday, 30th October 2023, on behalf of Ghanaian Children

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, I bring you greetings from the children of Ghana and I believe that they are very happy, wherever they are, that organisers of the Mole Water and Sanitation Conference have once again remembered them by giving them the platform to make their voice heard. I am also personally very glad to be selected to represent all of them here at Jirapa.

Before I go on, Mr. Chairman, permit me to salute all my predecessor Child Sanitation Diplomats – Neriah Tettey, Mawadatu Naziru, and Maame Akua Ohenewaa Gyimah – who set the pace for the rest of us to keep voicing out our concerns on sanitation and hygiene.

Mr. Chairman, may I now seize the opportunity to thank my campaign partners, World Vision Ghana, Kings Hall Media, Zoomlion Foundation, the GAMA Sanitation and Water Project of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, and the Ghana Education Service for their support and the opportunity they are giving to children.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to continue the tradition of all my predecessors to re-echo children's call for every adult, every parent, and every person in authority to refrain from bad sanitation practices and provide their families and their institutions with the needed sanitation facilities. More importantly, I also wish to repeat that every adult should refrain from open defecation and set a good example for children to follow. This is a call that children will forever make until we notice the change that we desire. The theme you selected this year is about systems, and we children want to believe that every system we build should lead us into a clean and healthy environment.

I also wish to thank CONIWAS for responding positively and swiftly to a request made by my predecessor Child Sanitation Diplomat, Maame Akua Ohenewaa Gyima, that the organizers of the Mole Conference should establish a permanent session for children. I am glad to observe that tomorrow, God-willing, I will be interacting with children on sanitation and hygiene at this venue as part of the Mole Conference, the first of its kind in the 34-year history of this conference. We are so grateful for this gesture, CONIWAS.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that even beyond the Mole Conference, stakeholders in the sector will continue to create more space and opportunities for children to learn and possibly share their views. I also wish that in addition to the Child Sanitation Diplomat initiative, there will be other child-centered innovations to provide more opportunities for children to learn and contribute to creating the world that we want. As a sanitation campaigner, I also promise to avail myself whenever possible, to support efforts to advocate for change and to sensitize the masses.

May Mole 34 become one of the most impactful editions of the conference.

Thank you very much.