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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

European Union (EU) Delegation hands over control of its social media accounts to Plan International Ghana child rights activists

To celebrate the launch of the revised European Union (EU) Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child, Plan International is partnering with the European External Action Service to organize a global youth takeover of EU Delegation social media accounts.

Throughout April, young people across Africa, Asia and the Americas will share their views on the challenges children in their country face, and what more needs to be done to ensure every child's rights are realized, directly from the Twitter and Facebook accounts of participating EU Delegations. In Ghana, the Youth Takeover will take place on Wednesday, April 26th, from 10am – 2pm.

The revised Guidelines set the EU's overarching strategy to defend and promote children's rights in the world. They set out the actions that EU officials should take, and outline the principles underpinning EU action, the priorities for EU engagement and the tools which can be used.

"Every child should have the ability to achieve their fullest potential, this means they should learn, lead, decide and thrive in order to create a just world in which all children's rights are realized. This cannot be achieved if children do not participate in their own decision making," Madam Fadimata Alainchar, Country Director of Plan International Ghana.

"The European Union has identified the need for the promotion and protection of child rights in Ghana as part of the EU Country Human Rights Strategy. The EU Country Human Rights strategy is written after extensive consultations with Human Rights Defenders in Ghana including the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, with EU Member States also involved", William Hanna, Head of the European Union Delegation to Ghana.

"The EU Delegation in 2012 and 2013 pooled funds and launched a call for proposal focused on the promotion and protection of children from abuse, exploitation and exposure to harm. These calls are targeted at civil society organizations as well as state institutions such as the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice to work with state agencies such as



the local authorities and also communities to implement specific activities aimed at ensuring the protection of children from the violation of their rights" he stated.

Mr. Hanna observed that the EU delegation has launched another call in 2017 to promote and protect child rights in Ghana. This call aims at supporting civil society organizations to work with relevant stakeholders in ensuring the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. In the reviewed Human Rights Country strategy for Ghana the issue of Child Rights remains a priority. The EU and Member States will work with other organizations and agencies such as civil society organizations, UN agencies, the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Ministry for Gender, Children and Social protection to ensure the protection of children.

“It is important to consider the views of young people as they understand the issues that affect them better.” Harriet Ndanu, a youth Ambassador of Plan International Ghana stated.

Follow the takeover on Twitter (@WilliamHannaEU), @EuropeInGhana) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/EuDelegationToGhana>) or using hashtags #YouthTakeover and EU4Children.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Contact: Delegation of the European Union to Ghana
The Round House,
81 Cantonments Road,
P. O. Box 9505 KIA, Accra,
Tel: 0302-774201;
Fax: 0302-774154
Email: delegation-ghana@eeas.europa.eu
Website: : <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ghana/>

Contact: Plan International Ghana
#10 Yiyiwa Street, Abelenkpe
P. M. B Osu, Accra, Ghana
Tel. +233 (0) 302 778039
Tel. +233 (0) 302 764405
Fax. +233 (0) 302 776102
Email: Ghana.co@plan-international.org
Website: www.plan-international.org



Background:

The Youth Takeover in Ghana is part of a global #YouthTakeover campaign taking place throughout April in countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas. For a full overview of please go to plan-international.org/eu/youthtakeover.

You can follow the #YouthTakeover on the EU Delegation Twitter and Facebook accounts (@WilliamHannaEU, @EuropeInGhana) and (EuDelegationToGhana) or by following the hashtags #YouthTakeover and #EU4Children.

EU Delegation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EuDelegationToGhana/>

EU Delegation Twitter: <https://twitter.com/williamhannaEU> and <https://twitter.com/@europeinghana>

Plan International Ghana Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/planghana/>

Plan International Ghana Twitter: <https://twitter.com/planghana>

About Plan International Ghana

Plan International Ghana was established in Ghana in 1992 reaching only 20 communities in the Awutu-Senya District in the Central Region. Plan International Ghana now reaches over 637 communities in 47 districts which are spread across 8 regions of Ghana namely: Central, Eastern, Volta, Upper West, Northern, Greater Accra, Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo. Plan Ghana uniquely works in mostly deprived rural areas, focusing on the marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. In all, 28,700 sponsored children have been directly benefitting from our sponsorship programme, while over 450,000 children are reached indirectly by various development interventions.

About the European Union Delegation to Ghana

The Delegation of the [European Union](#) to Ghana is part of the [European Union External Service](#), and is one of the more than 130 Delegations throughout the world. The Delegation has the status of a diplomatic mission and officially represents the European Union in Ghana. The European Union is made up of 28 Member States, has a population of around 500 million and is the largest trading bloc in the world. The Delegation's mandate includes the following: To actively promote the values and policies of the European Union, in an open and equal partnership with the Government and people of Ghana; To deepen the political dialogue on all issues of mutual interest and to strengthen the partnership; To implement the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, the development and trade policies focusing on poverty alleviation and on the promotion of democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law as well as the smooth and gradual integration of developing countries into the world economy; To inform Ghana about the policies and programmes of the European Union, as well as its institutions and values and to support regional integration in the Economic Community of West African States as well as the planned development of Pan-African policies, programmes and institutions.