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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

TEIN–TESCON JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

On Political Inclusion, Consensus Building and Responsible Political Engagement

October 31, 2026 | Tamale, Ghana

Preamble

We, representatives of the **Tertiary Education Institutions Network (TEIN)** and the **Tertiary Students' Confederacy Network (TESCON)**, gathered at a workshop on *Political Inclusion and Consensus Building: The Role of Political Parties and Parliament*, organised by the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) with support from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), recognise that Ghana's democratic development depends on the ability of citizens, particularly young people, to engage constructively across political and ideological differences.

We acknowledge that TEIN and TESCON represent different political traditions, affiliations and perspectives. However, we affirm that our differences do not make us enemies. We are citizens of one nation, governed by one Constitution, and share a collective responsibility to contribute to Ghana's peace, democratic development and national progress.

Drawing on our deliberations on ethical leadership, social cohesion, political tolerance, consensus building and the civic responsibilities of citizens under Article 41 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, we hereby affirm the following shared commitments.

Our Ten (10) Shared Commitments

1. Respect for Political Differences

We commit to recognising political opponents as fellow citizens and legitimate participants in the democratic process, rather than as enemies. We will respect the right of others to hold and express opinions different from our own and promote a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

2. Issue-Based and Respectful Political Engagement

We commit to conducting political discussions and debates around ideas, policies and issues of national importance rather than personal attacks. We reject insults, character

assassination, stereotyping, intimidation and political violence, and will encourage constructive dialogue as a means of resolving disagreements.

3. Responsible Public and Media Communication

We commit to promoting responsible political communication across traditional and digital media, including television, radio and social media platforms. We will verify information before sharing it and reject the deliberate spread of misinformation, disinformation and inflammatory content that could undermine public trust, incite hostility or threaten social cohesion.

4. Peaceful and Credible Campus Politics

We commit to promoting peaceful, lawful, transparent and credible campus elections and political activities. We will discourage intimidation, electoral misconduct, violence and the use of unofficial security groups in student political activities, while encouraging fair competition and respect for democratic outcomes.

5. Protection of Public Property and Institutional Integrity

We commit to protecting university facilities and other public property during political activities. We will encourage our members to uphold the rule of law, respect institutional rules and regulations, safeguard the integrity of our educational institutions, and exercise their political rights responsibly.

6. Cooperation on Issues of Common Interest

We recognise that consensus does not require political or ideological uniformity. We therefore commit to identifying and pursuing common interests through joint initiatives in areas such as environmental protection, community service, sanitation, academic development and other activities that promote the well-being of students and communities.

7. Consensus on a National Development Plan

We call for a national development plan that transcends political party affiliations and establishes shared priorities for Ghana's long-term development. We encourage successive governments to continue and complete projects initiated by previous governments and build on an agreed national development framework to ensure policy consistency, continuity and sustainable national progress.

8. Prioritisation of Youth Employment and Job Creation

We call on both the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) to prioritise youth employment through sustainable policies and programmes that expand

economic opportunities, promote entrepreneurship, strengthen skills development and address the challenges of unemployment and underemployment among young people.

9. Inclusive and Responsible Student Leadership

We commit to promoting inclusive student leadership that represents the interests of the entire student body, regardless of political affiliation or electoral support. We recognise that elected student leaders have a responsibility to serve all students fairly and impartially.

10. Protection of Academic Freedom and Institutional Rules

We commit to safeguarding academic freedom and the right of students to participate in political and civic activities, while upholding campus safety, fairness, mutual respect and compliance with university rules and regulations. We believe that political participation should enrich the academic environment rather than disrupt teaching, learning or peaceful campus life.

Our Commitment to Ghana

We reaffirm that our political identities should serve, rather than undermine, the national interest. We commit to promoting tolerance, dialogue, peaceful coexistence and responsible citizenship among our members and within the wider student community.

We recognise that today's student leaders are potential future leaders of political parties, Parliament, government and other public institutions. We therefore accept the responsibility to model the ethical leadership, democratic values and political culture we wish to see reflected in Ghana's governance.

We call on our members and fellow young Ghanaians to **listen to understand, challenge ideas rather than individuals, verify information before sharing it, respect political differences and cooperate where our interests are shared.**

We firmly believe that **political diversity and national unity can coexist** and that Ghana's democratic future will be strengthened when citizens can disagree peacefully while working together towards the common good.

Our Call to Action

We commit to sustaining constructive dialogue between TEIN and TESCON beyond this workshop and to exploring practical joint activities that strengthen mutual trust, political tolerance and cooperation among young political leaders.

We further encourage other student and youth organisations to embrace dialogue, tolerance and responsible political participation. We urge them to help build a democratic culture in

which disagreements are resolved through constructive engagement rather than hostility, intimidation, or violence.

We call on political parties, educational institutions and other relevant stakeholders to support initiatives that promote ethical leadership, inclusive participation, consensus building and peaceful political engagement among young people.

Different Ideas. Shared Citizenship. One Ghana.

Signed

Participants

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