

# SPECIAL EDITION (AGM) NEWSLETTER


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## STAR-GHANA FOUNDATION HOLDS 4TH AGM

STAR-Ghana Foundation held its 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, February 5th, 2024, in Accra in compliance with statutory requirements and also to, among others, consider and adopt Reports of the Governing Council, Executive Director and Auditors for the 2022/2023 financial year. The meeting also discussed key developments within the Foundation's operating context during the reporting period and their implications for the organisation and its work.

Dr Esther Ofei-Aboagye, Chairperson of the Governing Council for STAR-Ghana Foundation, in her remarks said despite its challenges, the Foundation has made significant progress towards its vision of a well-informed active Ghanaian citizenry, able to contribute to transformational change that advances democracy, accountability and social inclusion. In all 31 people including 15 Subscribers and 5 Governing Council (GC) Members, Executive Director of the Foundation, the Foundation's Auditors and the Acting Foundation Secretary attended.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **26 communities, 12 local partners supported** to implement models of community philanthropy.
  - They address salient local issues.
  - These initiatives will directly benefit over 300,000 citizens.
- **2 local volunteerism schemes**
  - The first cohort of 18 development expert volunteers supporting 22 CSOs
  - 25 CSOs, selected to develop and implement community and district schemes
  - Approx 2,000 citizens will be provided opportunities to actively participate in development processes.
- **Grants disbursed during the reporting year**
  - GHS 66.77m disbursed to 66 partners
- **Cumulative grants disbursed**
  - GHS 25.8m to support civil society/citizens' actions at all levels of governance. Find full Report here [2023 AGM Report](#)

Past AGM Reports

[2022 AGM Report](#)

[2021 AGM Report](#)

[2020 AGM Report](#)



Dr Esther Ofei-Aboagye- GC Chair



# Retiring GC Members

The tenure of office of five (5) GC members ended in November 2023. They are :



**Hajara Mohammed Rufai**

Hajara Mohammed Rufai is a youth development practitioner with over 12 years practical experience in youth leadership training and capacity-building programming and implementation, having worked with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung – Ghana Office in the design and implementation of several capacity building programmes for various partner institutions such as parliament, electoral commission, political parties, youth and women's groups. Hajara Mohammed is currently working as a managing partner of Young Peace Brigades – Ghana, a local affiliate of United Network of Young Peace-Builders based in The Hague, Netherlands, where she coordinates training and development.



**Francis Asong**

Francis Asong is Executive Director of VOICE GHANA, a disability rights, advocacy and capacity building organisation based in Ho, Volta Region. He has been involved in a range of management tasks for the past 15 years, and has a long-standing interest in social inclusion agenda, particularly for people with disabilities. Francis is involved in several grassroots social actions. He is the Coordinator of the Governance Issues Forum Network and Local Accountability Network in the Volta Region, which were spearheaded by the Institute for Democratic Governance and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition respectively

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**My indefatigable colleagues on the Governing Council have gone beyond the call of duty – making themselves available for every assignment that was put their way. You have been there for the Foundation, giving us your time, counsel, energy and resources to make all these efforts worthwhile.**

• Dr Esther Ofei-Aboagye- GC Chair



**Professor Agnes Atia Apusigah**

Professor Agnes Atia Apusigah served on the GC for eight years is an Associate Professor at the University for Development Studies, Wa Campus and currently the Dean of the Faculty of Education, University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana. Her research concentrates on the political economy of African development, indigenous knowledge systems, gender studies and educational policy and reforms. Professor Apusigah is a social critic and a feminist activist with extensive experience working with civil society organisations and donor agencies. Her work with civil society has centred on research, policy development, capacity-building training, programming support and project evaluation.



**Professor Audrey Gadzekpo**

Audrey Gadzekpo PhD. is a Professor at the Department of Communication Studies and the Dean of the School of Information and Communication Studies, University of Ghana. She has more than 24 years of experience in teaching, research and advocacy on media, gender and governance, and more than 28 years practical experience as a journalist, working variously as a reporter, editor, contributor, columnist, talk show host, socio-political commentator, and magazine publisher/editor. Professor Gadzekpo has conducted numerous training sessions on media and communications for civil society, public and private sector organisations, and serves on a number of local and international boards, including CDD-Ghana, PANOS-West Africa and West Africa Democracy Radio. She is also a member of the National Media Commission.



**Nana Asantewaa Afadzinu**

Nana Afadzinu, Executive Director of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), has worked with and within the civil society sector for the past 19 years and is a passionate advocate for sustainable development in Africa with the full participation of an effective, efficient, influential and sustainable civil society. She is a lawyer by profession and has worked on areas of governance, human rights, philanthropy and capacity building with national, international, continental and regional organisations in Africa. Nana is also a member of the Advisory Councils of Water Aid Ghana, the Africa Civil Society Platform, the Nexus Fund and the SDG Philanthropy Forum in Ghana.

# Incoming GC Members

In line with the Foundation's Constitution, five (5) persons were appointed by the AGM to replace the retiring members. They are:



**Gertrude Fefoame**

Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame is an advocate on disability and gender issues, a resource/technical person on programming with focus on disability and a mentor since 1979 with over 40 years of experience. She has extensive national and international experience in advocacy, programme development and capacity building programmes in social development. Her vast experience and relentless efforts to influence and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities led to her election to serve as an expert member on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in June 2018 and was elected for the second term in 2022. In March 2023, she was elected as the Chair of the Committee to serve for two years.



**Ethel Cofie**

Named one of the Top 5 Women impacting IT in Africa, Ethel is CEO and founder of EDEL Technology Consulting, an IT Consulting Company in West Africa and Europe who was recently named IT Consulting Firm of the year by the Telecoms and IT Industry. She is also founder of Women in Tech Africa, Africa's largest women in tech group with members in over 30 Africa countries and in the diaspora and growing. She created women in tech week, a global event which started in 2016 and impacts over 10,00 women globally. Ethel has been featured on BBC and had opinion pieces published on CNN on the topics of technology in emerging markets, and women leadership. She also sits on a number of boards across Africa.



**I look forward to bringing my expertise to particularly contribute towards the setting up of an Endowment Fund for the Foundation.**

• Victor Paa Kwesi Mensah- GC Member



**Victor Paa Kwesi Mensah**

Victor is a People and Organisation Development (POD) practitioner, who believes in the enormous benefits to be derived from proper understanding, articulation and working with stakeholders to develop people, policies and programmes towards stronger institutions. To achieve these, he believes in aligning myself with, maintaining and enriching the Core Values and Philosophy behind the organisations he work with. Victor is also a Systems Design Manager, Facilitator, Conversationist, Projects Manager, Teamologist, Management Consultant, International Development Expert, Youth Interventions Certified (YIC) Practitioner, Gender Policy Analyst, Teacher, Entrepreneur, Change Agent, and a Chartered Manager.



**Bernard Koku Avle**

Bernard Koku Avle is a media personality, broadcast journalist, public speaker. Bernard currently serves as the General manager at Citi FM and also doubles as the host of the station's morning show 'The Citi Breakfast Show'. He also hosts the much-acclaimed political talk program 'Point Of View Show' on Citi TV. He holds an MBA in Marketing from the Warwick Business School in the UK, Bernard serves as a member of the governing council of the Global Marketing Network in Ghana and he is a founding director of iJourno Africa, where he trains and creates opportunities for participants to practice citizen journalism and equip them with tools to cover local issues. He was voted the 'Journalist of The Year' in 2017 by the Ghana Journalists Association.



**Adelaide Addo-Fening**

Adelaide is an experienced and competent International Development Programme Management Specialist with over 25 years' experience managing programme portfolios globally, across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. She has extensive experience in Public Administration and Sector Governance; Institutional Development and Reform; Social and Public Policy Development and Implementation; Civil Society Strengthening Inclusive Development Approaches and Programme Management. Key Leadership roles held include Team Lead for the UK government funded Ghana Oil and Gas for Inclusive Growth Programme (GOGIG), Independent Consultant on various Governance Strengthening assignments; Director of International Programmes and Global Lead on Disability for Sightsavers International; Africa Strategy Lead; West & Central Africa Regional Director and Country Director for Ghana with VSO UK



# Appointment of additional Subscribers

In line with the provisions of the Foundation's constitution, the AGM approved the appointment of 16 additional Subscribers to bring the total number of Subscribers to 40. The additional subscribers are:



**Yawa Hansen-Quao**

Yawa is a mission-driven leader working towards peace, prosperity and justice in Africa. For most of her career, Yawa Hansen-Quao has worked to unlock opportunities for women and youth in Africa. Through the Leading Ladies Network, Yawa has fostered an ecosystem of women and girls who have ambitious goals, strong character and resolve to serve as impactful leaders in business, civil society, and government. In May 2012, at the World Economic Forum on Africa, Yawa was recognized as one of Africa's Rising Leaders and in 2016 was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship in honor of her pioneering work nurturing emerging women leaders.



**R. Teiko Sabah**

Teiko Sabah is a Mo Ibrahim African Leadership Fellow, a lawyer, multidisciplinary development professional and certified Project Manager with twenty (20) years progressive experience in development work in Africa. She has led policy development work in Ethiopia and Ghana and supported pan African campaigns on Tax Justice and Climate Change. She is passionate about supporting the growth of women and vulnerable persons. With her unique mix of legal and development background, Teiko brings an added edge to any role she undertakes. She currently serves as DIRECTOR, Development & Social Services at the Presbyterian Church Of Ghana.



**Martin Luther Kpebu**

Martin Kpebu is an Active Legal practitioner in civil and criminal litigation. His specialty is in Commercial law, corporate law, natural resources law. Martin has delivered "The Law of Criminal Disclosure in Ghana" Continuing Legal Education for Lawyers of Legal Aid Commission of Ghana (April 2019) among other conferences Papers and Seminar Papers. As a lecturer, he taught Criminal Law, Natural Resources Law, and Torts at the Central University.



**Thomas Benarkuu**

Thomas Benarkuu holds two Masters of Science in Local Economic Development and Organizational Development from The Institute of Local Government Studies and College for Community and Organizational Development respectively. He is a Certified Advance OD from USA at Institute of Organization Development (IOD), Florida. Thomas has been certified by the Institutes of World Bank on good governance practitioner in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thomas Benarkuu is an organization development (OD) practitioner and a specialist in appreciative leadership and local economic development practitioner. Over the last 15 years, he has worked as change agent and a development facilitator extensively with the non-profit (largely) and the private sector very well.



**Bashiratu Kamal**

Bashiratu is a feminist organizer, journalist, unionist, gender, labor and safeguarding specialist. She works with the General Agricultural Workers Union of TUC-Gh as the gender Equality Officer. Her duties include working to ensure that Collective Agreements, policies and legislations are responsive to the needs of all categories of workers especially vulnerable workers in the workplace. She leads several Union campaigns on the provision of Child Care facilities, Maternity protection and eliminating violence and sexual harassment in the Workplace. Bashiratu is a Fellow in charge of the Gender and Equality Pillar and a Council member of the Centre for Social Justice.



**Prof. Ellen Bortei-Doku Aryeetey**

Social Development Consultant with several years of experience working with policymakers, public agencies, development partners and non-government organisations. Prof. Hellen has more than thirty years of experience in supervising dissertations and thesis at the Masters and Ph.D levels at the University of Ghana (1987 to date). She holds membership of development community development oriented advisory bodies; participates in voluntary outreach services to support vulnerable groups through faith-based organisations and charities.



# Appointment of additional Subscribers



**Margaret Jackson**

A highly accomplished and well-established senior leader with over 30 years of professional cross-industry experience. Experienced in advising clients and executives on L&D strategies and best practices, empowering HR teams to enable employee growth, developing organisational wide business plans to facilitate revenue growth, providing leadership to cross-functional teams, using a logical approach to mitigate risks and exceeding expectations set by senior stakeholders. A results-focused and goal-orientated individual who enjoys working with people from all backgrounds and looks forward to new challenges.



**Naa Fofo Djanie**

Naa Fofo Djanie is a multidimensional rising leader from Ghana whose works are centered on Global Impact, Entrepreneurship & Spirituality. She is founder and CEO of Agro Nova, an award winning (Green Business of the Year) sustainable agribusiness startup in the food and green cosmetic value chain with Climate Smart Agriculture practices that promotes good health and wellbeing, safe environment and add economic value to smallholder rural women farmers. A Development Communications Specialist working with youth and women in rural communities, under Advocate Development Networks, an organisation she founded to empower communities to LEAD their own development, on Community Building



**Osman Abdel-Rahman**

Alhaji Osman Abdel-Rahman is a development practitioner who has managed development projects and programmes since 1991. He is currently the Executive Director of GDCA and also manages and coordinates projects and programmes of annual portfolios of more than GH¢4m. His competencies include strategy development, programme design and management, financial planning and management, human resource management, resource mobilization and organizational governance.



**Dinah Adikoh**

Ms. Dinah Adiko is a Gender and Inclusion Consultant with over 18 years' experience working to promote women's rights and gender equality in Ghana. Over the years, she has contributed actively towards ending all forms of violence against women and children. Ms. Adiko once worked as Technical Advisor on Gender at the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), where one of her key achievements was the setting-up of the Child Marriage Unit at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the launch of the national campaign on ending child marriage. As a Gender and Inclusion Consultant, Ms. Adiko has done work for a number of organizations including Plan Ghana International, World Bank, STAR Ghana, Parliament of the Republic of Ghana, University of Education, Winneba, among others. She was once a board member of the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETFund).



**Elijah Yaw Danso**

Mr. Danso holds an MSc in Development Planning and Management from KNUST, Ghana. He also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Planning and Management from the University of Dortmund, Germany. He is an experienced development planning expert. His areas of competence include environmental and social impact assessment, water and sanitation policy analysis, natural resource and environmental governance, monitoring and evaluation impact studies. He also worked as a Senior Programme Officer for Environment and Water for the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana, Social Development Advisor for the DFID sponsored Forest Sector Development Programme, Programme Coordinator for EU sponsored Human Resource Development Programme, Socio-economist for the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana.



**Dr. Sulemana Abudulai**

Dr. Sulemana is an experienced economic, environmental, and social development expert, with involvement covering different parts of Africa and internationally. Dr. Abudulai is well-versed in International grant making across different regions and specific fundraising expertise across different social, economic and political issues. He has a special interest in human rights, gender, the eradication of poverty, climate change, biodiversity, and environmental issues. Dr. Abudulai also has range of experience from academic, through fundraising, and grant making has led to a strong skillset including in negotiation, strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning, community mobilisation, facilitation, alliance building and agenda setting.



# Appointment of additional Subscribers



**ROLAND O. AKOSAH**

Roland O. Akosah, is the CEO of ENO International, LLC, a small, privately held firm registered in the State of Delaware. Its principal office is in Washington DC and has a branch office in Ghana. Roland co-founded the company, in 1994, but became a full-time entrepreneur in 1999. Roland's eclectic literary tastes include literature, history, economics, politics, philosophy, science, and technology. He is also an amateur poet. He is a fellow of the West African Leadership Initiative of the Aspen Institute (USA), which is committed to advancing enlightened citizenship and leadership around the world. He is an incorrigible supporter of the Ghana Black Stars, the national soccer team.



**Victor Paa Kwesi Mensah**

Victor is a People and Organisation Development (POD) practitioner, who believes in the enormous benefits to be derived from proper understanding, articulation and working with stakeholders to develop people, policies and programmes towards stronger institutions. To achieve these, he believes in aligning myself with, maintaining and enriching the Core Values and Philosophy behind the organisations he work with. Victor is also a Systems Design Manager, Facilitator, Conversationist, Projects Manager, Teamologist, Management Consultant, International Development Expert, Youth Interventions Certified (YIC) Practitioner, Gender Policy Analyst, Teacher, Entrepreneur, Change Agent, and a Chartered Manager.



**Charles Aheto-Tsegah**

Charles Aheto-Tsegah is Lead Consultant at Cutting Urge Consults. He is efficient result oriented person, with academic qualifications that have inspired my actions; a degree in History and Education with a post graduate study in Comparative Education, and a graduate degree in Comparative Development and International Policy Studies: Development Administration and Planning. He also has significant international exposure having participated actively in conferences on Education (Global Monitoring Report), development effectiveness, and active involvement in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Charles has held senior positions relating to my teaching profession and other related issues such as public finance management and Monitoring and Evaluation. He has a diverse experience in both governmental and non-governmental organizations.



**Francis Asong**

Francis Asong is Executive Director of VOICE GHANA, a disability rights, advocacy and capacity building organisation based in Ho, Volta Region. He has been involved in a range of management tasks for the past 15 years, and has a long-standing interest in social inclusion agenda, particularly for people with disabilities. Francis is involved in several grassroots social actions. He is the Coordinator of the Governance Issues Forum Network and Local Accountability Network in the Volta Region, which were spearheaded by the Institute for Democratic Governance and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition respectively



**I am particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute to the Foundation that has been championing Active Citizenship. This is an area i feel very strongly and passionate about. I am happy to serve in any needed capacity**

• **Martin Luther Kpebu- Subscriber**



## Other Decisions

👉 **Approval of the Foundation's Annual Report and the Auditors Report.**

👉 **Approval for the GC to work towards the setting up of an Endowment Fund for the Foundation.**

👉 **Approval to rename the STAR-Ghana's Annual Active Citizenship Lecture as the **Annual Akoto Ampaw Active Citizenship Lecture**, in commemoration of the late Mr Akoto Ampaw (Sheey Sheey) who played an invaluable role in the transitioning of the STAR-Ghana programme to the STAR-Ghana Foundation.**

👉 **Appointment of interim Company Secretary following the demise of Akoto Ampaw (Sheey Sheey)**

## AGM IN PHOTOS





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