Multi-Stakeholder Approach to SDGs
Ghana acknowledged that the implementation of the SDGs requires Collective commitment and responsibility that requires harmonised and synergised efforts of every citizen - hence the adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach. Civil society is therefore represented in the institutional coordination and implementation structures such as the Implementation Coordinating Committee (SDGs ICC) and the National Technical Committee. Government further demonstrated its collaboration with CSOs by allowing for a joint reporting with CSOs during Ghana’s first Voluntary National Review at the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Government ceded 3mins (of its allotted 15mins) to CSOs to present our first CSO Shadow Report on the SDGs titled ‘Telling the Ghanaian Story through the lens of citizens”

SDG Reporting
According to the Africa SDG Index 2019 report, out of the 54 African countries that reported in the year 2019, only 2% (1 country in Southern Africa) lay in yellow range (signifying moderate improvement), whilst 20% (11 countries) lay in orange range (signifying a stagnation) and 78% (42 countries) lay in red range (which signifies a decline). West and East Africa made up more than half the countries that lay in the red range. Ghana saw improvements (across all SDGs) in 67 out of its 101 SDG indicators, whilst 20 worsened (Ghana 2019 VNR).

GOAL 16 Monitoring and Evaluation
The importance of Goal 16 to development cannot be overemphasized. Goal 16 has a cross cutting impact, and a catalytic effect on the other goals. It is an important enabling factor to the successful attainment of both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Regrettably, the Africa SDG Index 2019 reported significant challenges with regards to report on SDG 16. Ghana for instance showed stagnation in its implementation of the SDG 16. Ghana is seen to have declined in Public Sector Accountability and the Corruption Perception Index (CPI). It is also important to consider the inclusion of qualitative assessment tools in the assessment of this Goal. Essentially, the indicators of Goal 16 can best be reflected through a deeper interrogation of the challenges. For instance, the causal effect of Ghana’s decline in CPI Scores. CSOs could complement government’s efforts through qualitative analyses and reporting.

What are the main criteria to consider in developing a tool for monitoring and evaluation of institutional aspects of SDG 16?

1. Country Context
The tool must suit the peculiar context of the country that is seeking to monitor the institutional aspects of SDG 16. It is difficult to transpose tools from other countries due to the difference in existential contexts.

2. Statistical Capacity

Does the mandated national statistical organization have the capacity needed to undertake such monitoring and evaluation? An understanding of the SDG, targets and indicators are also needed. This will give a clear sense of direction to guide the development of the tools.

3. **Data availability (in the form of baseline data)**
Are there baseline reports that speak to current institutional arrangements, especially with regards to Goal 16? The baselines will give a clear understanding of the current situation and help you determine progress or otherwise.
In Ghana’s case, a National Data for Sustainable Development Roadmap with three priority objectives: filling data gaps; encouraging data use; and strengthening the entire data ecosystem. Administrative data are being harnessed to generate timely and disaggregated information for monitoring.

**What is the role of non-state actors in supporting Ghana to achieve the SDGs?**

In line with this, CSO, Media are well positioned to support this process due to our focus, reach, and expertise.

The Ghana CSO Platform on SDGs are mobilised around the 17 Goals to foster joint actions and efforts at all levels – At the same time, position ourselves with a stronger voice for advocacy. A basis for a constructive engagement with the state actors as well as motivate the alignment of roles and harmonization of resources.

This therefore seeks to guarantee that citizen’s voices are not only heard but also incorporated in the design, implementation and reporting on the SDGs. Especially, those living in extreme poverty or those further behind.

Our work with the most marginalized, vulnerable and needy populations in Ghana is critical to the supporting the principle of Leave no one behind.

- For example, the CSOs Platform has developed a strong partnership with the Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD) and is working to ensure that people living with disabilities, as well as issues of disability, are key components of the work on the SDGs in Ghana. The CSOs Platform and GFD worked together to analyze the indicators that are being reported on for the SDGs.

- Additional, fully-localized indicators that would reflect the particular needs of people with disabilities in the Ghanaian context were
proposed to the Government of Ghana for inclusion in the monitoring of the SDGs nationally.

- In addition, the CSOs Platform has been advocating for government to fully disaggregate all data on the SDGs so that the realities and experiences of people living with disabilities are clearly visible in progress reporting.

We also monitor progress on the SDGs.

a. By reviewing progress on national indicators through government reporting,

b. But at the same time also generate our own data and evidence on the progress on the SDGs. Our shadow report termed “” sought to highlight civil society’s perspectives on the effectiveness and identified gaps in progress towards achieving the SDGs.