



THE ISHOLA EMPIRE

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The Ishola Empire Written Input on Key Financing Policy Reforms and Solutions for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development Elements Paper

As we stand on the threshold of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, our organization is pleased to submit our insights and recommendations for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. At the center of our call to action is a commitment to fostering inclusive policy that uplifts women and children, embraces neurodiversity, and actively supports the advancement of the African diaspora and people of African descent.

Recognizing the multifaceted challenges that these communities face, we advocate for the investment in inclusion and development of innovative financing mechanisms that prioritize their unique needs and aspirations. Women and children, often at the heart of humanitarian efforts, require targeted interventions that enhance their access to resources, education, and economic opportunities, while just as important, integrating neurodiversity into policy frameworks is essential for creating equitable environments where all individuals can thrive.

Our organization believes in a holistic approach that not only addresses immediate financial constraints but also empowers marginalized groups through sustainable practices and collaborative partnerships. We believe in amplifying the voices of those affected, and we aim to contribute to policies that are not just inclusive in theory but actively transformative in practice.

I. A Global Financing Framework (Including Cross-Cutting Issues)

Today's world calls for a comprehensive global financing framework that prioritizes inclusivity, delivers equity, and calls in the talents of all individuals, particularly those from marginalized communities. In this framework, we must recognize the invaluable contributions of African

descendant peoples, neurodivergent individuals, women, and our youth, for they are not just participants in our societies; they are the driving forces behind our collective progress and prosperity.

As we think about the future and the financing for development, let us not forget that youth are to remain at the forefront of our discussions. They are the beneficiaries of our decisions today. Investing in their education, mental health, and entrepreneurship is not just a societal obligation; it is a strategic necessity. Young people have the potential to transform our world in remarkable ways, to innovate, and to drive social progress. As change makers, we must equip them with the tools, resources, and support they need, break the cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement, and help them to realize their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society.

As it comes to neurodivergent individuals, we must recognize that their unique perspectives and talents can unlock new avenues of thinking and problem-solving. Inclusiveness means ensuring that the diverse talents of neurodivergent individuals are able to be identified and encouraged. We strongly believe that investing in the creation of workspaces and educational environments that are adaptable to different neurological profiles, will foster a culture of innovation and build a more just society. Let the benefits of such inclusivity ripple across our economies, enhancing productivity and enriching our communities for long lasting development.

The histories of African descendant peoples are often marred by exclusion and inequality, yet their resilience and ingenuity are essential assets that contribute significantly to our global development. Policies tailored to benefit African descendant communities must prioritize investment in education, entrepreneurship, and access to technology. We stress the need for an environment where these talented individuals can thrive. Let us elevate not only their prospects but also bolster the economies and social fabrics of our nations. An investment in their abilities is an investment in a future where innovation and creativity feel welcome.

As we work towards a better tomorrow, we cannot overlook the critical role women play and have played as the backbone of our societies. History has shown us time and time again that when we invest in women, we all win. Women have been at the forefront of social change, care, and economic development; their empowerment leads to equitable growth. Comprehensive policies that provide access to financial resources, healthcare, education, and support systems for women not only reduce inequalities but also set the foundation for a better, more sustainable future for our children. This investment yields multifaceted returns, fostering healthier, educated, and economically capable generations.

An inclusive global financing framework is a framework that encourages collaboration and shared responsibility, understanding that our fates are intertwined. As we approach this elements paper, let us ensure we include recommendations that nurture the diverse talents and potential within our communities as we lay the groundwork for sustainable development and create a world that honors the dignity and worth of every individual.

II. Action Areas

a. Domestic Public Resources

We call for policy that supports mandated tax for multinational businesses and invests in technology for efficient tax collection. Leaders should implement progressive tax policies that ensure equitable contributions from all socioeconomic groups. This includes tax incentives for businesses that invest in communities with significant populations of African descent, seek accomplished women for high-level employment and support the significant inclusion of neurodiverse individuals in decision making processes and systems.

Increase funding for education and vocational training programs in areas predominantly inhabited by the African diaspora. Focus on STEM, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy to enhance skills and economic opportunities for neurodivergent individuals. Additionally allocations should be used to decrease barriers to education for women and girls such as gender based domestic work such as gathering water, through development of public services.

Expand public health initiatives tailored to the specific needs of women of color, addressing disparities in health outcomes. This includes culturally competent care and increased funding for mental health services. Invest in public education on neurodiversity, necessary accommodations and emotional de-escalation to allow for the contribution of neurodiverse individuals in the workplace and society.

Allocate resources for programs that promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the African diaspora, Indigenous peoples and People of African descent such as international grants for co-operative cultural heritage centers, art initiatives, and educational programs facilitating cultural exchanges between indigenous communities and developed nations allowing for greater likelihood to understanding and peacekeeping efforts.

b. Domestic and International Private Business and Finance

We support incentivizing private sector investment in sustainable projects through strategic measures such as tax breaks and investment guarantees. In doing so, we must place a special emphasis on initiatives that support those who have often been marginalized in our economies—indigenous women, afro-descendant youth, and neurodivergent individuals. Equally important is our commitment to facilitating access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. SMEs are the backbone of our economies, driving local entrepreneurship and creating jobs. To truly stimulate this vital sector, we must develop tailored financial instruments designed specifically for their unique needs. When we support these businesses with the resources they require, we cultivate innovation!

We must also invest heavily in technology, particularly for entrepreneurs within the African diaspora. Facilitation of access to technology and innovation hubs provide the infrastructure and support necessary for these entrepreneurs to thrive in the digital economy. The possibilities that await us when we harness the skills and insights of our diaspora communities are endless, and we have the opportunity to be at the forefront of that change.

Lastly, we urge the establishment of government-backed matching funds for investments made by members of the African diaspora in their home and native countries. By incentivizing these remittances and encouraging investments, we can better strengthen local economies and create impactful change. This not only acknowledges the financial contributions of the diaspora but also reinforces their connection to their heritage which in turn creates community members who take ownership of their communities.

c. International Development Cooperation

We must encourage international development agencies to include the neurodivergent in development projects, utilizing their knowledge and talents to drive change in their countries.

We call for the continued establishment of programs that facilitate knowledge transfer between countries with significant diasporas and their countries of origin, especially in areas such as governance, technology, and entrepreneurship. Knowledge transfer is crucial for fostering sustainable development, especially in countries with large diasporas. When individuals who have gained expertise abroad can share their skills and insights with their home countries, it can lead to significant advancements in governance, technology, and entrepreneurship.

We must ensure women are guaranteed access and decision making rights when international development is at hand. Women bring unique perspectives and solutions that can greatly enhance the effectiveness of development programs.

The youth must be consulted, informed and actively participating in the development of the world they will be left with. Their perspectives not only reflect the needs and aspirations of future generations but also infuse innovative ideas into development efforts. Creating platforms for youth participation can help ensure that their voices are heard and valued in shaping policies that affect their lives.

d. International Trade as an Engine for Development

We advocate for equitable trade agreements that facilitate market access for developing countries, with a special emphasis on agricultural products and handicrafts. It is vital that we implement policies promoting ethical sourcing from nations that are home to significant indigenous women communities. However, equitable trade is not solely about access; it is also

about capacity. We must actively offer training and robust support to developing nations, empowering them to strengthen their capacity in international trade negotiations. When countries are equipped with the necessary skills, they enhance their competitiveness and stand a better chance of thriving in the global

We encourage governments to establish both bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that include provisions specifically designed to support businesses owned by neurodivergent individuals and women. We call for inclusive economic growth that acknowledges and prioritizes the diverse contributions of all community members.

Additionally, we must turn our attention to strengthening supply chains. Let us develop initiatives that link diaspora businesses with their countries of origin, dramatically enhancing trade opportunities and fostering deep economic ties. By connecting these businesses, we create a dynamic platform for innovation, collaboration, and shared prosperity. It is our shared responsibility to promote sustainable practices and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background, can participate in and benefit from the global economy.

e. Debt and Debt Sustainability

We call for additional targeted debt relief programs for the most vulnerable countries, enabling them to redirect funds towards sustainable development initiatives and we advocate for debt relief and credit education for women, allowing them to allocate more resources toward personal development and household needs that benefit their children and enrich their communities over time.

We strongly encourage international financial institutions to adopt sustainable lending practices that consider the socio-economic impacts on people of African descent and prioritize investments in community development projects and to implement programs aimed at enhancing financial literacy among the African diaspora to empower them in managing debt and making informed financial decisions.

f. Addressing Systemic Issues

We believe in the establishment of programs that emphasize sustainable agriculture and renewable energy solutions in diaspora communities. We support promoting green entrepreneurship and climate adaptation strategies to build resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change. Additionally, we must allocate funding for research to help reduce the impacts of the global climate crisis.

Additionally, it is essential to increase investments in healthcare, including mental health services, services tailored to the specific needs of the neurodivergent community. This requires investment in ensuring diversity awareness and competency training for healthcare providers,

so they can deliver the most effective and relevant care. Furthermore, we must implement targeted public health campaigns that address the prevalent health disparities within these communities.

We must also invest in strengthening legal frameworks and institutional capacity to fight corruption, ensuring accountability in the management of public resources, establish and enforce strict anti-discrimination policies in all sectors, ensuring equal opportunities for people of African descent in employment, education, and other public services and promote cultural competency training in public service organizations to address bias and systemic racism, thereby creating a more inclusive environment for the African diaspora.

g. Science, Technology, Innovation, and Capacity Building

We have a responsibility to empower young people of African descent through mentorship and scholarship programs, particularly in STEM fields and leadership training. Let us also support cultural exchange programs that connect the youth in Africa with their counterparts in the diaspora, enhancing their global citizenship perspective and fostering a sense of shared purpose.

We call to increase investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education opportunities for neurodivergent individuals to build a strong pipeline of talent that can contribute to innovation. Neurodivergent individuals bring unique perspectives and skills to society, enhancing creativity, problem-solving, and innovation across various fields. Their diverse thinking patterns enable them to approach challenges from different angles, often leading to groundbreaking solutions that might be overlooked by neurotypical counterparts. In the workforce, companies that embrace neurodiversity tap into a wealth of talent, as these individuals often excel in areas such as technology, engineering, and the arts. Investing in neurodivergent individuals is a strategic move, as it promotes a culture of acceptance and drives economic growth through the harnessing of a broader range of skills and viewpoints.

III. Emerging Issues

We are witnessing an unprecedented evolution in fintech and digital currencies, which hold enormous potential to broaden access to finance, particularly in underbanked regions. However, with this potential comes a responsibility to implement robust regulatory measures that protect against risks—ensuring that these innovations serve everyone, especially the most vulnerable communities.

It is imperative that we develop initiatives that provide affordable access to high-speed internet and digital literacy programs, with a special focus on underserved communities within the African diaspora. Moreover, we must encourage partnerships among governments, tech

companies, and community organizations to create technology hubs—spaces that offer vital training and resources, fostering innovation and connectivity.

IV. Data, Monitoring, and Follow-Up

We believe in the creation of systems for regular feedback from the Civil Society Organizations regarding their needs and experiences with public services, using surveys and town hall meetings to facilitate ongoing dialogue.

We call for easier accessible platforms and technology to enhance communication between policymakers and diaspora communities, indigenous peoples and community citizens, enabling timely responses to emergent issues.

We strongly encourage the development of systems to enhance each member states national statistical capacities to produce reliable data for monitoring financial flows and impacts on development and a structured follow-up process with clear indicators to track commitments and ensure accountability, using multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue.

V. Overarching Reflections

The fourth International Conference on Financing for Development should prioritize equitable solutions that empower developing countries to mobilize domestic resources and engage effectively with international financial systems. A comprehensive approach that fosters collaboration between governments, the private sector, and civil society is essential for sustainable growth and effective implementation of commitments made. This holistic perspective will ensure that the financing landscape is not only robust but also capable of addressing the emerging challenges of our interconnected world.