



**Code:** GA2/1/1

**Committee:** General Assembly Second Committee

**Topic:** Financial Inclusion of Rural and Underserved Communities

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*The General Assembly Second Committee,*

*Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 2015, “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (*2030 Agenda*), which highlights the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pledges to “leave no one behind”,

*Emphasizing* the fact that 22% of women with only primary or secondary education are unemployed compared to 40% of women with a bachelor's degree, according to the Center for The Middle East of Rice' University's Baker Institute for Public Policy,

*Noting with concern* that women are disproportionately impacted by lack of access to financial services, with only 58% of women across the globe having access to formal banking systems and debt management education, and are often excluded from opportunities that would otherwise lead them to financial inclusion and the ability to invest in their own small businesses and communities,

*Keeping in mind* the prevalence of wage-inequality worldwide, lack of women in the workforce, and the commitment of SDG 8 to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all,

*Highlighting* that while access to financial opportunities makes enhances the lives of vulnerable individuals, as they help businesses mitigate shocks and improve management of expenses, there is also a persistent gap in the availability of these services, particularly in rural areas and among women,

*Recognizing* that the younger generation needs to be educated on financial opportunities to further their involvement in the future, since 24% of children in rural areas are enrolled in public schools, according to the National Center for Education Statistics,

*Fully alarmed* by the fact that all regions experience barriers to economic opportunities for women, who have turned down job opportunities due to lack of access to viable transport, and noting the link between poor access to public transportation and cyclical poverty, especially as it relates to employment and financial opportunities for women and underserved communities,

*Reaffirming* SDG target 16.9 from the *2030 Agenda* which calls upon Member States to “provide legal identity for all, including birth certificates”, and recognizes the necessity of formal identification for citizens needed to create accounts and seek assistance from financial institutions, which are essential services, especially for rural and underserved individuals,

*Noting with concern* the inequality caused by creating legally distinct statuses for urban citizens in access to financial services, education, housing opportunities, and labor rights,

*Recognizing* the impact the World Bank Group (WBG) has had on expanding access to financial services, as well as its commitment to further lowering the barriers to entry expressed in the Universal Financial Access (UFA) by 2020 goal,

*Acknowledging* the capabilities of low-cost biometric technology to lower barriers to financial services for who literacy and universal access to reliable identification are not guaranteed, such as in the case of those living in remote rural communities or refugees,

*Alarmed* by the widespread lack-of-access to financial services in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where, according to the Global Findex Database (Global Findex) nearly 1.7 billion persons have no access to a financial institution,

*Acknowledging* the recommendations of the 2020 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report “Advancing the Digital Financial Inclusion of Youth” as a framework for efforts to provide young people with financial services,

*Applauding* the success of the United Nations Digital Financing Task Force (DFTF), which provides recommendations for the successful use of financial technology for all Member States, in accordance with the *2030 Agenda* but recognizing that the recommendations made by the DFTF have yet to be adopted or utilized by many Member States,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance employment opportunities in the formal financial sector by:
  - a. Addressing gender discrimination which may limit employment availability for women;
  - b. Focusing on international trade and regional interactions to increase the number of women in the workplace;
2. *Emphasizes* that in order to promote economic and professional development for women, we must ensure the practice of:
  - a. Top-down commitments to access opportunities by ensuring half of all candidates are women, posting salary ranges, and committing to fair pay;
  - b. Ensuring women have equal opportunity to gain skills, experience and mentorship needed to rise to leadership positions;
3. *Proposes* the inclusion of women in financial opportunities by implementing access through the expansion of Postal Services by:
  - a. Expanding existing postal services to be more diversified enterprises and ensure all have access to financial services;
  - b. Expansion of postal services to reach rural and underserved communities for the purpose of developing financial access in these communities;
  - c. Suggesting that those countries without preexisting Postal Services consider their positive impacts in enhancing inclusion and financial opportunities by implementing these services;
  - d. Working with UNWomen and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to implement this solution;

4. *Recommends* schools provide programs geared towards economic education through the use of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) after school programs by:
  - a. Working specifically with groups, such as UNICEF, to implement this program in Member States that are open and welcoming of the program;
  - b. Implementing programs in local and rural schools that focus on educating the youth on economic programs specifically geared toward bettering their future in terms of economics;
5. *Calls for* the investment into and development of public transportation services in an effort to increase access to both traditional banking services and employment opportunities by:
  - a. Requesting that the UNDP collaborate with Member States to promote access to public transportation by providing funding for the upgrading and maintenance of roads and staffing of more drivers to prevent overdependence on certain routes;
  - b. Welcoming Member States, with a robust private sector transit system, to work with private companies to expand routes to connect rural communities and reduce rates;
6. *Advocates* for legislation that is both inclusive and protective of the rights of youth, and are consistent with the principles and guidelines share by the Center for Financial Inclusion, such as minimizing age restrictions and allowing flexibility on identification requirements;
7. *Requests* that the Secretary General issue a report on what degree Member States are adhering to SDG target 16.9, which will identify Member States experiencing difficulty providing formal identification for their citizens, and provides recommendations to resolve;
8. *Strongly discourages* the use of separate legal status for urban and rural citizens that may encourage discrimination in employment and access to social services;
9. *Encourages* Member States to work with the World Bank Group to utilize biometric identification, such as fingerprinting, as an alternative for traditional identification to improve the access of those who do not want or cannot have a state-provided ID, such as those living in remote areas and refugees, to better achieve the UFA goals by 2020;
10. *Implores* Member States to adopt the recommendations made by the United Nations Digital Financing Taskforce, which will greatly increase the facilitation and use of financial technology worldwide, particularly among groups who have previously not had access to financial institutions;
11. *Urges* Member States to establish public-private partnerships between private financial corporations and public banks under the framework of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to provide financial literacy education programs to rural communities;
12. *Supports* creating the council for Encouraging Development Universally (EDU), as an arm of the OECD, to encourage Member States to develop and implement participatory financial education programs that provide active engagement with financial decision-making, which:
  - a. Draws funding from the United Nations and the OECD;

- b. Rewards nations that comply with the recommendations with monetary incentives;
13. *Endorses* the implementation of an inclusive and evidence-based approach to advancing youth digital financial inclusion, enabling inclusive digital financial ecosystems that support youth financial inclusion, and establishing appropriate protections for youth financial and digital empowerment;
  14. *Strongly encourages* communities to foster a vibrant economic climate where digital service providers and technology companies can invest in these underserved communities and provide greater broadband internet services and access to necessary technological devices.



**Code:** GA2/1/2

**Committee:** General Assembly Second Committee

**Topic:** Financial Inclusion of Rural and Underserved Communities

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*The General Assembly Second Committee,*

*Recognizing* the significant contributions and goals established by the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to attract outside technology and promote homegrown innovation and research,

*Calling attention* to the 1.7 billion people who lack access to affordable financial products and services and struggle to access traditional financial institutions, such as banks and ATMs, due to distance, hindering communities from being financially inclusive,

*Emphasizing* the importance of a national financial inclusion strategy (NFIS), a comprehensive national roadmap to accelerate the level of financial inclusion that more than 60 Member States have already implemented, and applauding the efforts of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) with their *Maya Declaration* (2011), which successfully established concrete financial inclusion targets,

*Stressing* General Assembly resolution 72/206 (2017), acknowledging the role that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) financial regulations play in ensuring that the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) funds are appropriately distributed to rural communities in humanitarian crises,

*Deeply concerned* with the lack of micro-financial access for young entrepreneurs in rural communities in least developed countries (LDCs) ,

*Aware* that the "United Nations Sustainable Development Report" (2019) found that extreme poverty and food insecurity are three times higher in rural communities than urban communities and that poverty rates are on the rise after a 28-year reduction,

*Alarmed* to how vulnerable the agricultural sector is to environmental shocks, which can lead to post-harvest losses and poor harvest yields, putting stress on the food production system that rural communities rely on for steady income,

*Noting* the important plans that have previously been implemented with the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA) (2015) to subsidize private business loan services, especially in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs),

*Acknowledging* that Member States face challenges in the process of implementing electronic financial frameworks, such as the Jan-Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile (JAM) framework, which utilizes technology-enabled direct benefit transfers (DBTs) to improve the process of distribution of funds to citizens,

*Concerned* that 31% of adults worldwide lack access to bank accounts and other financial services, as noted by the Global Findex Database, which significantly hinders underserved peoples from accessing financial resources they need to achieve their financial success,

*Realizing* that supporting innovative corporations among the many Member States and international organizations will establish competitive and transparent market conditions to ensure the protection of consumers and the distribution of higher quality financial services at lower prices,

*Concerned* with the lack of financial stability, inclusion, and access to traditional financial services in the global community, resulting in disparities between rural and urban communities,

1. *Calls upon* developed Member States to donate 0.18% of their gross national income (GNI) in official development assistance (ODA) to increase the annual funding of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries;
2. *Encourages* all Members States to help increase access for rural communities to financial services by creating a regional plan that:
  - a. Identifies areas and communities that need greater access to financial services;
  - b. Increases the number of ATMs for better access to liquid assets;
  - c. Builds more banks;
  - d. Provides more methods of transportation through collaboration with volunteering local transportation firms;
  - e. Encourages and utilizes funding through Private-Public Partnerships;
3. *Welcomes* Member States to arrange and implement a NFIS, emphasizing aspects from international frameworks, such as:
  - a. The Group of 20's (G20) Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, which assess the state of financial inclusion and digital financial services through the G20 Financial Inclusion Indicators;
  - b. AFI's Financial Inclusion Strategy Peer Learning Group, which provides peer reviews of draft strategies and action plans to make them more feasible;
  - c. The World Bank's Financial Inclusion Support Framework, which provides assistance to countries to formulate and implement national strategies systematically and offer a unique range of expertise and knowledge, including financial education, financial stability, social transfers, and rural finance;
4. *Invites* Member States to further implement previously existing anti-money laundering regulations by the IMF and work with stakeholders to ensure OCHA emergency funds are properly allocated and appropriately distributed to ensure:

- a. The prevention of financial flows that could potentially divert funds from rural communities;
  - b. The regular self-assessment of Member States' adherence to these protective financial regulations in order to further secure OCHA funds;
5. *Recommends* Member States to institute micro-loan programs that provide resources for small businesses to promote grassroots entrepreneurship, simultaneously increasing the economic growth of rural and underserved community, by:
  - a. Prioritizing rural and underserved members of the community;
  - b. Implementing a universal low interest rate enforced through a one-time loan origination fee;
  - c. Ensuring an affordable repayment plan;
  - d. Helping develop good credit and keep track of borrower's credits throughout the program;
6. *Further recommends* broadening access to education and financial services to increase the agricultural productivity and output quality of small-family farms by adopting credit-guarantee and risk management schemes, such as the warehouse receipt system, to reduce post-harvest losses and improve credit and loan access for farmers;
7. *Encourages* partnerships with collateral management companies to provide farmers both credit support and warehouse storage access to store commodities and mitigate potential environmental shocks;
8. *Insists* Member States make a stronger resolve in following the plan established in the AAAA to "urge relevant international public and private actors to support such banks in developing countries" in order to establish multiple business loan services by:
  - a. Providing governmental incentives for NGOs to provide loan services with little to no collateral, as demonstrated by the Grameen Bank, for small businesses and households;
  - b. Working with unions to create trust funds that support more competition and lower interest rates for small business loans;
9. *Suggests* that Member States assess domestic capability to implement JAM by assessing the percentage of citizens who have a personal bank account and, subsequently, taking measures to raise this number as well as implementing DBTs to streamline the process of the distribution of funds from the government to its citizens by:
  - a. Sending out bank representatives to rural communities to give citizens a direct path to opening a personal bank account;

- b. Developing incentives for citizens to open personal bank accounts, such as higher rates of interest collection for citizens on deposits;
  - c. Utilizing DBTs as a tool to fight corruption and theft of government funds by ensuring that benefits are being transferred directly to the intended recipient;
  - d. Assigning unique identification numbers to citizens in order to ensure the identity of the recipient;
10. *Endorses* a standardized financial inclusion education program model for Member States that have yet to employ such a program or seek to modify existing programs that:
- a. Standardizes a class for financial literacy, which will involve a two-tier course that:
    - i. Is made available to participating youth and adults, respectively, with courses being modified as appropriate to the demographic taking said courses;
    - ii. Educates participants on the merits of accessing financial institutions and how to best access, utilize, and harness the benefits of those financial institutions;
    - iii. Grants the opportunity to act upon the material learned in these classes by bringing participating financial service firms such as banks and government entities;
  - b. Conducts a week-long study, carried out by Member States with the assistance of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of rural and underserved communities to help demonstrate each area's need for financial literacy education before the program is deployed;
  - c. Works with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the IMF to best implement the financial inclusion education program across regions;
  - d. Utilizes funding from volunteering NGOs who specialize in creating, financing, and employing educational initiatives, alongside NGOs that specialize in financial access education;
11. *Further invites* Member States to utilize the Bali Fintech Agenda to develop policies that considers new business models and consumer protection to address market competition to overcome barriers to financial services and resources by:
- a. Gradually establishing a regulatory sandbox system for all Member States that would assist in promoting the production of innovative products that benefit and protect consumers and is readily available for rural and underserved populations;
  - b. Working with all Member States to form a legal basis of these regulatory sandboxes and to identify goals that will assist in developing specifics of the policy, such as promoting confidence in the financial sector, promoting competition in the interests of consumers, especially for disadvantaged groups like rural populations and women, and supporting innovation in the financial market;



- c. Developing a multi-phase system where the private entity would send an application to a public authority, cooperate with the authority to prepare for testing, then proceeding to test the proposal for a period of 3-12 months, which leads to an assessment of the innovative nature of the proposition;
- d. Receiving funds from the World Bank Group, if appropriate, and assisting the IMF in the implementation of the Bali Fintech Agenda and the “Enhancing Access to Opportunities” (2020) document;

12. *Urges the* implementation of fintech to resolve barriers to financial inclusion, by:

- a. Encouraging willing Member States to work directly with major national and international institutions, such as the World Bank, Grameen Bank, the African Development, and the the New Development Bank and Fintrust, merging the public and private sector, to further regulate the implementation of fintech and ensure consumer protection by supervising financial institutions and transactions;
- b. Providing users in underserved communities with affordable and efficient technologies that address five main objectives to:
  - i. Develop a payment ecosystem;
  - ii. Facilitate access for lower-income populations who live in remote locations;
  - iii. Facilitate low-cost savings;
  - iv. Enhance financial sector infrastructure;
  - v. Ensure consumer protection;
- c. Offering financial literacy resources through fintech companies to educate underserved communities with a basic understanding of how the banking sector operates as well as the documentation necessary to open an account.



**Code:** GA2/1/3

**Committee:** General Assembly Second Committee

**Topic:** The Financial Inclusion of Rural and Underserved Communities

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*The General Assembly Second Committee,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 70/1 of 2015, 69/313, and 72/222 of 2017, which endorse and support sustainable international development using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to empower and include women in the financial market, especially those in rural and underserved communities,

*Guided by* the General Assembly resolution 70/192 titled “Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development,” which highlights the importance of eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development,

*Affirming* General Assembly resolution 63/154 of 2008, in addition to General Assembly resolution 63/198 as foundational frameworks for global education, was bolstered by the High-level Principles on National Strategies for Financial Education, created by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and General Assembly resolution 72/206 of 2018,

*Emphasizing* the need for financial education in rural and underserved communities, since 62% of the adult population are financial illiterate,

*Acknowledging* the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) on the importance of achieving gender equality with the realization that the human rights of women and girls are essential and imperative,

*Further recalling* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) accelerates the achievement of SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

*Alarmed* by the exceptionally low rate of women in rural communities with bank accounts due to systemic boundaries, despite pre-existing financial education programs from the United Nations such as the WomenWatch Task Force and the necessary steps to empower women to participate in local agriculture markets,

*Recognizing* the importance of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, which improves youth employment options and the vital financial inclusion of young women,

*Further alarmed* by the fact that more than 2.5 billion adults are excluded from financial services, including more than 80% of impoverished communities and 56% of women,

*Celebrating* the launch of the Principles for Investors in Inclusive Finance by the United Nations Secretary General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, which provides resources for manager selection, appointment, and monitoring,

*Concerned with* the need to protect ownership and control of private investment projects in underserved communities subject to predatory financing,

*Noting* the Global Findex Database found that only 10% of rural residents in developing countries use formal credit and only half of these same rural residents utilize a banking account, to reflect the success of the Jam Trinity in 2017,

*Acknowledging* General Assembly resolutions 74/229 of 2019, 74/235, and 74/223 to encourage national and regional cooperation on the topics of gender equality, education, and Science, Technology, and Innovations,

*Further recognizing* the importance of financial inclusion for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as they account for 40% of GDP in emerging market economies,

*Recognizing* capital for financial inclusion and infrastructure can come from a wide range of sources, including Member States, global financial institutions, and private financing organizations and Member States can utilize multiple sources of financing,

*Understanding* the success of the United Kingdom-Africa Investment Summit in connecting Member States to private financial organizations to realize financial inclusion infrastructure investment as a means to improve the livelihoods of underserved communities,

*Noting with concern* the estimations made by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States 2016 report titled “Achieving Universal and Affordable Internet in the Least Developed Countries” that notes the prospects for widespread use of web connectivity as ‘poor’ ergo converting that it is a substantial obstacle for financial inclusion,

*Reaffirming* the goals outlined in General Assembly resolution 74/299 of 2019, emphasizing the need for the universal adoption of the road safety goals outlined in the United Nations Road Safety Fund as efficient transportation can lead to more opportunities for individuals in rural locations,

*Taking note* of global progress in regards to SDG 7 and developing shifts towards renewable and efficient energy to market impressive profit gains that can benefit multiple sectors of a regional economy especially with focus to enhanced funding for rural and underserved populations,

*Drawing attention* to the importance of rural electrification with the use of renewable energies, which improves quality of life, and allows businesses to carry out ventures in rural communities,

*Underscoring* that 13% of the population continues to lack adequate access to modern electricity, which is critical to provide affordable, reliable and renewable energy sources that is foundational to bringing about financial inclusion for all,

1. *Takes note* of measures pursued by Member States that encourage the development of rural and underserved communities by acknowledging that these steps must be rooted in previous international agreements concerning women’s empowerment and sustainable development, and working towards these in order to achieve the SDGs by the year 2030;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for Member States to introduce a National Strategy for Financial Literacy, with emphasis on the topics of checking accounts, wise money management, personal investment, and home economics, to be structured according to local cultural interpretation;
3. *Encourages* the expansion of the current mathematics and economics curriculums in rural and underserved school districts to integrate financial education, money management courses, and accurate teaching methods effectively;
4. *Recognizing* the significant work done by the Global Partnership for Education globally to reduce gender disparities among education and promote equity and quality of education throughout school systems;
5. *Recommends* Member States increase female educational attainment to contribute to female economic empowerment and inclusive financial growth by:
  - a. Working with organizations such as Equity and Quality for Improved Learning Project led by the World Bank dedicated towards education in vulnerable disadvantaged societies;
  - b. Introducing alternative opportunities by partnering with organizations such as United Nations Children's Fund to equip females that may not have access to education with relevant skills and knowledge necessary for survival in socio-economic communities;
6. *Invites* Member States to accelerate the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women through the implementation of a Women's Banking Department staffed by women to ensure continuous education in financial literacy, income security, equal workforce rights, and developing products focused on banking for women, consisting of a:
  - a. Gender Equality Toolkit for wide-scale distribution that highlights the benefits of providing gender specific services;
  - b. Diverse staff with instructions on how to reach women with optimal effectiveness;
7. *Hopes* that Member States will provide sufficient jobs for youth supporting this initiative in order to create greater employment options, in which youth have necessary access to improved career counseling, further assisting youths participation;
8. *Recommends* the expansion of an agricultural investment fund by UN Women to further support female participation and increase female employment in agriculture and related development and encourage the creation of women-focused banking literacy programs in rural communities by:
  - a. Providing grant-based funding to empower women to take part in these markets;
  - b. Assisting local banks in developing regional chapters to distribute these grants within their regions with the goal of creating regional support networks for working women;
  - c. Encouraging financing mechanisms under the same budget as Member States' educational programs, in partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN Women;

- d. Promoting women's access to independently opening checking accounts, savings accounts, accessing loans, and utilizing FinTech;
  - e. Encouraging rural and agricultural areas to introduce new banking institutions and FinTech, at the discretion of each Member State;
9. *Encourages* all Member States to work in conjunction with the *International Network on Financial Education (OECD/INFE)* to implement financial education programs on training and mentoring for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with specifically targeted groups within its rural communities, thus strengthening money management skills and improving regulatory hurdles and tax burdens experienced by rural communities;
10. *Recommends* Member States, global financial stakeholders, and private financial organizations develop stronger public-private partnerships to provide financing mechanisms for financial inclusion and infrastructure development by:
- a. Encouraging participation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda International Conference on Financing for Development to develop and promote public-private partnerships for infrastructure development;
  - b. Creating partnerships between Member States and private financing organizations to promote international investment in infrastructure projects from financial inclusion, including technology investment;
  - c. Cooperating with global financial organizations, like the World Bank, to finance guaranteed loans to underserved communities;
  - d. Providing funding publicly and privately, to ensure that essential services such as electricity, network service, and WiFi are available as a means for fostering functional financial and effective resources;
  - e. Supporting efforts to protect ownership of private investment projects through agreements with Member states;
11. *Suggests* the international implementation of banking accounts to citizens identification numbers and cell phone numbers by Member States in order to greatly expand the access to banking systems to all citizens but especially to individuals in rural communities;
12. *Recommends* that Member States utilize microfinance in order to allow rural communities to build repayment skills in early borrowers in order to introduce them into the formal financial sector in the future, which have been extremely successful models in Morocco and India among other Member States with similar models;
13. *Encourages* collaborative efforts with the World Bank Group and The National Development Fund for MSMEs to promote financial inclusion for SMEs through providing diagnostics, global advocacy, support of implementation, sharing of knowledge and business practices, and implementing programs to improve conditions regarding SMEs' access to credit at a lower rate than the private sector;

14. *Invites* public and private sectors to consider aiding in the national and international implementation of FinTech by:
  - a. Further advancing vocational programs and workshops designed to provide education of FinTech as well as rural electrification;
  - b. Working with emerging businesses to bring FinTech to rural populations in order to create more career opportunities and encouraging emerging businesses to grow;
  - c. Endorsing the partnership between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in order to create a more inclusive financial market for all, especially women and other vulnerable populations;
15. *Calls* for Member States to participate in North South and South-South Triangular Cooperation to develop national inclusive financing practices by:
  - a. Encouraging Member States to share best practices on industrial policies that facilitate economic development for underserved communities;
  - b. Recommending experts and technicians, such as the Financial Conduct Authority, share their expertise on inclusive financing policies to advance the exchange of knowledge on FinTech in the communities;
16. *Encouraging* the involvement of Human Rights NGOs in the funding of transactions between vulnerable recipients and financiers, NGOs being a welcome safeguard to the complex moral and ethical challenges of international financial projects;
17. *Strongly encourages* all Member States to promote regional and national initiatives that integrate the SDGs into financial inclusion practices by:
  - a. Utilizing the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion to promote the SDGs;
  - b. Expanding financial inclusion with a Regional Cooperation Initiative (RCI) to promote regional policy and agreements;
  - c. Expanding the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) to integrate SDGs into Member States national policies;
18. *Urges* Member States to sponsor the wide-spread installation of internet connection in rural areas, enabling the broader use of connectivity to achieve financial inclusion, and to consider the recommendations made by ITU under their 2016 report “Achieving Universal and Affordable Internet in the Least Developed Countries” on the:
  - a. Importance of the existence of a competitive mobile market that would enhance the spread of coverage and affordability in their prices;
  - b. Rationalization of taxation, as they trouble the fluctuation of the market and reduces network investment;

- c. Increased data gathering about internet usage and its obstacles under the context of rural and underserved areas and how institutions such as investment companies, governments and NGOs could tackle these problems;
- 19. *Encourages* public investments for regional grid extensions, which will allow greater access to cloud-based services for underserved communities, by:
  - a. Providing incentives to private firms to encourage connecting households;
  - b. Using off-grid technologies for rural communities allowing them to be self-sufficient, and can potentially reduce environmental impacts;
- 20. *Calls upon* Member States to provide equal access to the infrastructure resources, in the regions facing scarcity with the aim of eradicating poverty, modeled after the West-East Poverty Alleviation Cooperation and South-North Water Transfer;
- 21. *Suggests* Member States adopt a comprehensive road construction framework that looks to strengthen road safety management capacities, improve the safety of road infrastructure, and broaden transport networks, through initiatives such as:
  - a. Implementing the goals outlined in the United Nations Road Safety Fund;
  - b. Calling upon Member States to create public-private partnerships with organizations and institutions as they hold the key to regional infrastructure;
  - c. Recommending that Member States take a Sector Wide Approach which would unite major donors and governments in order to allocate funds for organizations to implement these solutions;
  - d. Urging that Member States to adapt their infrastructural development goals to meet the demands of environmental sustainability;
- 22. *Stresses* the need for all Member States to focus attention towards expanding the use of renewable energy and collective effort geared towards embarking the process of accessible and incentivized clean energy:
  - a. Encourages Member States to partner with Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure the implementation of SDG 7 and clean energy transitions that allow access towards cheaper, reliable and modern energy for all by 2030;
  - b. Recommends the implementation of power sector modeling to adequately forecast demand, improve transmission, and distribution capacity to lay out studios incentives that encourage significant profits and sustainability that help Member States adopt and expand renewable energy resources;
  - c. Encourages Member States to reallocate profits from renewable energy into impoverished and underserved sectors of the economy to help with financial inclusion and human capital growth.



**Code:** GA2/1/4

**Committee:** General Assembly Second Committee

**Topic:** Financial Inclusion of Rural and Underserved Communities

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*The General Assembly Second Committee,*

*Acknowledging* the disparities and economic inequalities that underserved communities have suffered, evidenced by the fact that 80% of women, children, and men living in extreme poverty live in rural areas, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),

*Noting with deep concern* that the Global Findex Database of 2017 estimated that 1.7 billion adults are not only poor but also unbanked,

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 72/206 (2017), which highlights the potential of science, technology, and innovation to promote financial inclusion by offering affordable ways to access finance and, thus, improving financial conditions for rural and underserved communities,

*Stressing* the importance of directing inclusive measures to further develop underserved communities' financial literacy to mitigate their lack of access to mainstream financial services, thus giving them the opportunity to develop necessary skills and resources, as mentioned in the 2007 report "Education for Rural People and Food Security: A Cross Country Analysis" by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

*Desiring* to improve the livelihood and wellbeing of 40% of the population who live in rural areas, as captured in the IFAD's report, "Why Rural People" (2020),

*Emphasizing* the importance of funding and the creation of infrastructure that would allow better conditions of electricity and internet access in rural areas in order to foster financial inclusion through Fintech and online banking services,

*Having considered* that the Education for Rural People Partnership (ERP) strives to increase education amongst rural people to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that mention quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation, and infrastructure,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the goals laid out in the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (2015), such as ensuring a policy and regulatory environment for the promotion of financial inclusion, and the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs in General Assembly resolution/70/1 (2015), specifically with targets 1.1 and 1.4 related to ending poverty; SDG 4 on Quality Education; SDG 5 on Gender Equality; and SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth,

*Committing* to the goals laid out in the Digital Financing Taskforce report *People's Money: Harnessing Digitalization to Finance a Sustainable Future* (2019) on harnessing digitalization to finance a sustainable future, such as making digital financing an integral part of sustainable development strategies and increasing access to digitized technology to citizens within Member States,

1. *Suggesting* the implementation of financial inclusion programs, based on the framework of the United Nations Capital Development Fund Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (UNCDF-PFIP) in rural, landlocked, and underserved communities, focusing on financial literacy and the



empowerment of marginalized groups through the development of new skills and increased participation in the mainstream financial sector of Member States' economies, by:

- a. Establishing a framework of regional non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to work with their region's Member-States in:
    - i. The creation and non-compulsory adoption of new models of education across schools to include financial education requirements to empower youth to achieve financial literacy;
    - ii. The enhancement of public-private partnerships, micro-financing, and investments towards initiatives for further developing the financial industry, prioritizing rural communities and institutions aiding underserved communities along with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations Special Advocate For Inclusive Finance For Development (UNSGSA);
  - b. Participating in the expansion of financial literacy programs, such as the Local Employment for Development in Africa (LEAD) Program, to include a focus on the creation of FinTech enterprises to further stimulate entrepreneurship among youth and women of rural and underserved communities in:
    - i. Ensuring well-informed decision-making strategies that foster financial inclusion and cooperation between small and micro businesses;
    - ii. Opening pathways for young people, particularly women and refugees, to study, work and grow their own businesses in fragile communities lacking access to mainstream financial services;
2. *Encourages* the Digital Financing Task Force to remain focused in the matter of gathering sufficient data for Member States to acknowledge and consider investment in financial technology as one of the most important solutions for financial inclusion, especially on:
- a. The need for cooperation among Member States to share their experiences and advancements with the objective of developing common principles to provide underserved communities with better financial conditions;
  - b. The role of financial technology enterprises and their innovative products and services that could help through public-private partnerships allow Member States to commit to the issue by more sustainable means;
  - c. The work of already existing financial institutions that should encourage the advancement and implementation of emerging technologies as an opportunity for them to expand their market to rural areas;
3. *Strongly encourages* the extension of the scope of the ERP of the FAO and UNESCO, to include a new plan called *the Agricultural and Educational Development Plan (AEDP)*, under the guidance of the ERP and UNESCO recommendation on TVET, and focuses on:
- a. The implementation of Reconstruct Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) from UNESCO to aid young farmers with the advancement of agricultural

technology and investment initiatives to foster a network of development for more efficient techniques to enhance the sector;

- b. Expanding TVET programs to include training on financial literacy and be included in secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities;
  - c. Promoting economic growth and increase the participation of women and underserved communities in agricultural work resulting in increased access to national and regional trade;
4. *Emphasizes* all Member States to remain concerned in the matter of expanding internet access to rural communities while empowering underserved and rural communities to be part of financial opportunities across Member States by:
- a. Expanding infrastructure projects to rural areas and underserved communities so they can take advantage of reliable electrical services, such as cell towers and power lines;
  - b. Developing land and construction projects that involve the creation of broadband towers to expand internet access to rural communities by building a nationwide system of robust; high-speed internet networks;
  - c. Fostering private-public partnerships to increase the participation of the private sector in including rural and underserved communities within financial services;
5. *Strongly encourages* the adoption of the Vienna program of Action which focuses on the development and expansion of transit systems and transport development in order to expand trade in the hopes of reducing poverty and promoting inclusive economic growth by:
- a. *The* establishment of a trade framework inside Member States to allow landlocked countries access to financial opportunities in the their states and globally;
  - b. *The* establishment of high-quality modes of transportation such as roads and railroads to assist in the interconnectivity of agricultural trade from rural and underserved communities to our Member States' financial opportunities;
  - c. *Expanding* the Vienna Program of Action to focus on rural and underserved communities in developing countries which are not landlocked;
  - d. *Encouraging* South-South and North-South and triangular cooperation in Member States to promote financial inclusion in developing nations and to foster trade between cooperating members.



**Code:** GA/1/5

**Committee:** General Assembly Second Committee

**Topic:** Financial Inclusion of Rural and Underserved Communities

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*The General Assembly Second Committee,*

*Acknowledging* that, according to the World Bank (WB), 51% of the world's population, specifically in rural communities, still lack internet access or electronic communication and, therefore, experience the absence of traditional financial services and financial inclusivity,

*Bearing in mind* that the WB Group reports that 1.7 billion adults worldwide lack access to a bank account and remain unbanked, exacerbating poverty due to an inability to access loans, savings, and other financial products,

*Noting* the substantial gender gap for men and women regarding financial inclusion is of 7%, along with, the importance of providing women with further education to ascend to a more prominent roles in their Member States' economy,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 62/185 of 2008 titled "International Finance Systems and Development," as well as General Assembly resolutions 72/239 of 2017 and 74/237 of 2019, which affirms the role of eradicating rural poverty, which impacts 580 million people worldwide, and plays into sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the WB Group's plan to develop remote channels of financial services, including forms of credit, digital financial services, access points, and transaction accounts,

*Guided* by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 2015, specifically SDG targets 1.4 concerning equal rights to economic resources, and SDG targets 10.2 calling for empowering and promoting the inclusion of all people, and the role of supporting the financial inclusion of rural and underserved communities in achieving these goals,

*Stressing* the importance of cooperation between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and governments to collaborate on financial technologies (fintech) for rural and underserved communities,

*Approves* the objective of the Belt and Road Initiative's (BRI), to lift 8.7 million people from extreme poverty and 34 million from moderate poverty, through an expansion of fintech companies in Member States where BRI is involved,

*Recognizing* the Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA), H.M. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, who emphasized to achieve universal financial inclusion, digital financing services are the key and must be readily available,

*Having considered* the alarmingly wide disparities in financial literacy extant between developed and developing economies around the world, which leads to varying levels of utilization of financial services,

*Seriously concerned* that digital technology and fintech could expose risks, including fraud, data privacy breaches, and cybersecurity issues,

1. *Recommends* the expansion of existing internet service providers to rural and underserved areas, by expanding the facilitation of greater internet access to encourage global financial inclusion;
2. *Emphasizes* the prioritization of increased internet and data coverage in rural and underserved communities to allow those areas to access digital financial services through:
  - a. *Increasing* the signal strength of existing internet and data coverage;
  - b. *Constructing* new servers and data centers in close proximity to target communities;
  - c. *Launching* initiatives aimed at expanding fiber optic cable lines;
3. *Encourages* Member States to enter into public-private partnerships with NGOs to conduct census counts in rural locations, to improve efforts to enhance financial literacy and technological services by accurately assessing population dynamics;
4. *Urges* Member States to adopt benchmarks for foreign investors to abide, and their provision should include financial literacy and technology to increase opportunities and access to initiatives for rural and underserved communities;
5. *Implores* Member States to encourage data protection for users of financial services, through economic and cyber cooperation between the government and the private sector in accordance with national laws by:
  - a. *Supporting* underserved areas, such as indigenous and rural communities, which often lack the social, economic, and political opportunities of urban populations;
  - b. *Proposing* more data subject rights in order to protect sensitive information;
6. *Emphasizes* the inclusion of women and young adults, an especially affected demographic, in financial technology and literacy initiatives by:
  - a. Incorporating the Lifelong Learning initiatives in rural communities, with the intent of promoting gender equality in formal banking by:
    - i. Training teachers in the education sector to eradicate past disadvantages of minorities in education;
    - ii. Creating national objectives to assist groups marginalized fanatically, by coordinating efforts with international financial organizations and regional banks to foster financial inclusivity;
  - b. Facilitating economic inclusion through continuous fintech education for historically-disadvantaged rural communities;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to combine efforts with NGOs and civil society to accelerate financial inclusion of underserved communities through economic development, concentrating on:
  - a. The organization of biannual mutual discussion boards among the above-mentioned actors with the goal of:
    - i. Disseminating knowledge of financial technologies within underserved communities;

- ii. Aiding underserved communities in capacity-building of the micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, drawing inspiration from BRI;
  - iii. Fielding experts and technicians from governmental agencies and the private sector to navigate and provide fintech education for people in underserved communities;
- 8. *Calls upon* Member States to work alongside NGOs to develop foundational financial literacy programs, especially in rural and underserved areas, that would allow all Member States to properly integrate into the global economy and increase economic opportunity and prosperity;
- 9. *Recommends* widening the funding channel to improve agricultural production in rural and underserved areas, by improving regional investment platforms, and expanding their focus to areas, such as the investment of formal agricultural financial institutions, and the involvement of enterprises in agricultural supply chains, especially.