



**Towards the Finance for Development  
Conference**

# **Road to Seville: The Local Way Youth Consultation Report**

## Acknowledgements

The organizing team composed by the United Nations Local2030 Coalition, the UN Youth Office, and the World Food Forum of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) wishes to express its profound appreciation to all individuals and organizations whose invaluable contributions of time, expertise, and knowledge made this global consultation possible.

The consultation was led by Ms. Nakita Aboya, Youth Representative and Lead for Youth Consultations within the Local2030 Steering Committee. The successful outcome of this process is a reflection of the commitment and active engagement of all participants and partners involved.

Special acknowledgement is extended to the distinguished speakers who delivered the opening and closing remarks, including Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs and the UN Youth Office; Sebastien Vauzelle, Head, UN Local2030 Coalition; Álvaro Díaz Duque, Deputy Director General for Multilateral and European Development Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain; Victor Muiru, Head, Local Youth Action, FAO World Food Forum; Macro Fayet, Deputy Manager, World Bank Youth Summit.

The organizing team also wishes to recognize the valuable contributions of the following speakers: Maria Caterina Migliorero, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Finance Lead, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA); Vincent Ssenyondo, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda; Ana Erika Lareza, Chair, EvalYouth Global Network; Patricia Longwani, Representative, YOUNGO; Bruno Ernesto Ferreira Crespo, Representative, Food Bank of Bolivia; Afruza Tanzi, Founder and CEO, H30 Bangladesh; Kinohi Souki, Member, Hawai'i SDG Youth Council; Sapphire Alexander, Coordinator, Transform Education, UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI); Pragya Devkota, Lead, WFF Nepal National Chapter.

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# Road to Seville: The Local Way

## Youth Consultation towards the Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FFD4) Consultation Report

### 1. Consultation Details

- **Title:** The Road to Seville Youth Consultation
- **Date & Time:** 22 April 2025, 2:00-5:00 p.m. CEST
- **Location:** Online
- **Organizing Entity:** UN Local2030 Coalition, UN Youth Office, FAO World Food Forum
- **Lead of the consultation:** Nakita Aboya
- **Facilitators:** Nakita Aboya and Lucia Graf-Rojo
- **Participants:** Over 600 registrations from various entities, including UN DESA, World Bank, local governments, private sector, academia, and development agencies.
- **Speakers:**
  - Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, UN Youth Office;
  - Nakita Aboya, PhD Researcher in Economics and Youth Representative on the UN Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee;
  - Victor Muiru, Head of Local Youth Action, UN FAO's World Food Forum;
  - Marco Fayet, Deputy Manager of the World Bank Youth Summit, World Bank;
  - Vincent Ssenyondo, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda;
  - Ana Erika Lareza, Chair, EvalYouth Global Network;
  - Maria Caterina Migliorero, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Finance Lead, UN DESA;
  - Patricia Longwani, Representative, YOUNGO;
  - Bruno Ernesto Ferreira Crespo, Representative, Food Bank of Bolivia;
  - Afruza Tanzi, Founder and CEO, H30 Bangladesh;
  - Kinohi Souki, Member, Hawai'i SDG Youth Council;
  - Sapphire Alexander, Coordinator, Transform Education, UNGEI;



- Pragya Devkota, Lead, WFF Nepal National Chapter;
- Álvaro Díaz Duque, Deputy Director General for Multilateral and European Development Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation, Spain;
- Sebastien Vauzelle, Head, UN Local2030 Coalition Secretariat;
- **General/Overall Moderator:** Lucia Graf-Rojo, Portfolio, Knowledge Management Associate and Youth Focal Point, UN Local2030 Coalition Secretariat.

## **2. Consultation Background & Objectives**

### **Background**

This consultation was convened as part of the broader “Road to Seville: The Local Way” initiative, a participatory process leading up to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in June 2025. The initiative places the localization of development finance at its core, aligning with the tenth anniversary of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and contributing to global momentum for reforming the international financial system to better serve local and community-level actors.

Despite their significant potential and demonstrated efforts, youth continue to face persistent barriers to financial inclusion. These include limited access to credit, low financial literacy, high interest rates, and restrictive collateral requirements; all of which hinder their capacity to invest and innovate. In many developing countries, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) represent over 90 percent of the private sector and account for more than 50 percent of employment, making their access to finance not only a development priority but an economic imperative.

In this context, the youth consultation offered a space for young leaders, entrepreneurs, and representatives to engage in dialogue on financing challenges and solutions from a local perspective. It facilitated the sharing of best practices, innovative approaches, and practical tools, and contributed to a global synthesis of youth-led case studies that highlight the transformative potential of localized development finance in accelerating inclusive and sustainable development.

### **Objectives**

- Identify youth challenges and efforts in sustainable financing, emphasizing multi-actor and multi-level approaches.
- Showcase innovative financing mechanisms and successful case studies.
- Develop key messages and policy recommendations for localizing finance to contribute to the Road to Seville synthesis report.

### **3. Summary of Discussions**

#### **A. Key Themes and Challenges Identified**

The main themes identified during the consultation were the following:

- **Exclusion from Financial Decision-Making:** Youth are often seen as beneficiaries rather than as co-creators or decision-makers in financing systems.
- **Limited Access to Finance:** Youth-led organizations struggle to access capital due to strict requirements, lack of collateral, and minimal institutional support.
- **Disconnect between Commitments and Implementation:** Many policies reference youth inclusion, but real implementation and funding mechanisms remain absent or weak.
- **Financial Systems Not Tailored to Youth Realities:** Existing global and local financial frameworks rarely address the specific needs, capabilities, or models of youth-led work.
- **Lack of Institutional Trust:** In many cases, youth are not trusted or recognized as formal partners by donors, governments, or financial institutions.
- **Shrinking Civic and Democratic Spaces:** Youth participants highlighted growing restrictions on activism, organizing, and participation, especially in fragile contexts.
- **Unstable Funding Environments:** Many youth initiatives rely on short-term, project-based funding with high reporting burdens and limited flexibility.
- **Limited Financial Literacy Support:** Financial education and capacity-building for youth remains underfunded or deprioritized, creating a barrier to effective engagement.
- **Gendered Barriers in Accessing Finance:** Young women face additional challenges related to discrimination, cultural norms, and lower access to financial tools.
- **Lack of Intergenerational Dialogue:** There is limited space for youth to co-create with older decision-makers, reducing the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder processes.

#### **B. Best Practices & Successful Approaches**

The best practices and successful approaches highlighted during the event were as follow:

- **Innovative Financing Mechanisms at Local Level**

Youth speakers shared experiences with community-based investment funds and youth savings and credit cooperatives as models that build trust and enable access for marginalized groups. A case from West Africa illustrated a local revolving fund managed by youth cooperatives that supports agro-entrepreneurship and is partially subsidized by municipal budgets.

➤ **Public-Private Partnerships Supporting Youth Ventures**

A successful example from Kenya featured a public-private partnership where a local government co-invested with a social enterprise accelerator to fund youth-led green start-ups. Another example came from Latin America, where partnerships between municipal governments and banks offered low-interest loans tailored to youth-run informal businesses.

➤ **Local Governments Creating Enabling Environments**

Participants emphasized the role of decentralized governance in enabling tailored financing policies. In some contexts, youth advisory councils embedded within municipal administrations played a key role in designing budget allocations. Cities that had integrated youth-sensitive budgeting into their local fiscal strategies were highlighted as models to replicate.

➤ **Use of Digital Platforms for Financial Inclusion**

Innovative digital platforms were used in Asia and East Africa to deliver microloans, mobile-based financial education, and real-time monitoring of youth-led projects. These tools helped overcome physical barriers to banking and increased transparency in how funds were used and reported.

➤ **Participatory Grantmaking and Flexible Funding Models**

Several organizations shared experiences with youth-led grantmaking panels where young people co-designed funding criteria and directly allocated resources. These models reduced administrative burdens and allowed for more context-relevant use of funds.

➤ **Cross-Regional Knowledge Exchange**

The event encouraged peer learning between youth networks, including sharing toolkits, finance models, and training strategies that can be adapted to different local contexts.

➤ **Embedding Financing Strategies in Youth Policies**

Countries with national youth policies that explicitly include financing mechanisms, for example youth innovation funds or SME vouchers, were seen as advancing more inclusive development financing ecosystems.

➤ **Institutionalized Youth Participation in Financing Forums:**

Proposals to create youth tracks within global financial governance forums like FFD4, ECOSOC, and national SDG platforms were seen as essential to scaling and sustaining youth influence.

#### **4. Key Messages & Recommendations**

**The main messages and key recommendations were as follow:**

- **Embed youth participation in national and local financing strategies** for SDG implementation: Youth must be co-designers of financing frameworks, not only recipients.
- **Support digital and community-based financial models** led by youth. For example, mobile savings groups and microloan platforms in Uganda are empowering young people outside formal financial systems.
- **Address systemic barriers to finance for youth-led organizations**, including access to collateral-free capital, simplified application processes, and multi-year flexible funding.
- **Incorporate youth-sensitive budgeting** into local and national policy frameworks, including clear resource allocations and monitoring mechanisms.
- **Strengthen local-global linkages** so youth priorities at the community level inform global financing negotiations like FFD4.
- **Invest in capacity-building** for youth organizations to manage, report on, and scale financing models aligned with SDG localization.
- **Facilitate knowledge-sharing between regions** to spread context-sensitive best practices in youth financing.
- **Prioritize gender-responsive finance** to address the additional barriers young women face in accessing and controlling financial resources.
- **Establish permanent youth advisory mechanisms** in financing platforms and international negotiations.
- **Amplify youth-led evidence and research** as inputs into financing policy frameworks at both the national and international levels.

## **5. Next Steps & Follow-up Actions**

### **Proposed Actions:**

1. **Create a story for the UN Local2030 Coalition website** summarizing key highlights from the youth consultation with a link to the report.
2. **Share the story and report** with the youth database and relevant partners and stakeholders (e.g., youth networks, development platforms).
3. **Integrate the youth report** into the broader *Road to Seville: The Local Way Report* towards FFD4 to be shared with the facilitators of the intergovernmental process of FFD4 and presented during the Conference.
4. **Maintain and engage the youth database** for future consultations (e.g., the Road to Qatar) and other communications or relevant information/updates to sustain engagement and build momentum.

**Responsible Parties:** Youth representative on the UN Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee and UN Local2030 Coalition Secretariat team.

**Date of Report:** 12/05/2025

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