

THE NAIROBI DECLARATION

On Christian Impact Investing in Frontier Markets

February 2023

As Christian Frontier Market entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders drawn from across the globe and from different denominations, races, and genders, we are witnessing the advent of an exciting new movement. Frontier Markets are emerging as centers of financial growth, spiritual renewal, and social development.

Frontier Markets represent the fastest-growing economies worldwide. By 2050, Africa alone will make up 25% of the world's population, with over 35% under the age of 20. A growing youth and middle-class consumer base will supercharge economic growth, leapfrog technological and economic development efforts, and determine the shape of the world's culture and values.

Frontier Markets are primed and ready for the worldwide Body of Christ to join with this movement of the Spirit to shape the trajectory of economic growth in ways that bring true shalom wholeness and peace to communities and nations. As Christians living and working on the Frontier, we are convicted, however, that the scale and scope of God's sovereign vision and promises for our nations far exceed our current efforts.

Together, therefore, **we commend this declaration and invite Christian investors, entrepreneurs, and business leaders** worldwide to join us in transforming our communities, our nations, and our world for the purposes of Jesus.

TOGETHER, WE BELIEVE

1. **Businesses and investments have the potential to catalyze the redemption of whole nations**, to address the most critical economic, spiritual, social, and environmental challenges of our time, and to develop and release transformed disciples who will lead sustainable change in their communities and nations.
2. **Frontier Markets require tailored investment solutions**, which are locally driven and break from conventional models. These solutions must be developed in collaboration and with a commitment to being directed by the wisdom and experience of Frontier Market leaders.
3. **The Creator God has imbued women and men from all nations with the gift of entrepreneurship and the character of integrity, honor, and trustworthiness**. We, therefore, reject the image of Frontier Markets as innately more corrupt and commit ourselves to recognize and respect the image of God in all persons.

TOGETHER, WE DECLARE that effective Christian impact investing in Frontier Markets will:

1. **Seek to catalyze shalom (human flourishing) through the redemption of individuals, communities, and the marketplace.**

We pursue the redemption of whole nations through strategic and synergistic investments whose impact extends beyond job creation to provide solutions that target the systemic root causes of economic, spiritual, social, and environmental challenges within our communities.

2. **Commit capital that is generational and strategically aligned and that assesses risk through a Biblical lens.**

We call for investors who will commit themselves and their funds to journey with us in a generational commitment to economic, spiritual, social, and environmental returns in Frontier Markets. In our pursuit of shalom, we call for investments that are strategically aligned to multiply influence and impact, and we commit ourselves to pursue radical obedience in our assessment of risk.

3. Commit to investing in and through well-defined, intentional, and mature communities of national entrepreneurs and business leaders.

We celebrate and uphold the value of community as a Biblical value in response to the increasing focus on rugged individualism and as a key to whole-nation renewal. We acknowledge the foundational importance of communities, which provide one another with the spiritual, political, social, and financial protection and the mutual accountability required to prosper within Frontier Markets.

4. Work through mutual submission and toward equal partnership in power, value, and respect between investors and Frontier Market operators.

We reject the perversion and abuse of power within our own societies, whether it be on the basis of tribe, race, creed, gender, or wealth. We invite investors to a journey of mutual submission and transformation as we unite as the functioning Body of Christ across cultures to solve problems.

5. Develop, mentor, and empower transformed leaders and disciples of Jesus in the crucible of business to become change agents within their communities and nations.

We are compelled to emulate the example of Jesus, who changed the trajectory of the Roman world through the deliberate discipleship of a few. We are, therefore, persuaded that the transformation of our communities and our nations requires that leaders are developed, mentored, empowered, and released and that this must be core to the DNA of every Christian impact investment.

6. Expect and demand world-class excellence.

We strive for economic, spiritual, social, and environmental excellence in our pursuit of shalom, refusing to have the measure of our ambition constrained by the realities of our circumstances. We seek to maximize holistic value creation, recognizing that financial returns may vary. We invite and call on investors to support us and demand from us world-class excellence in all we do as a witness to those looking in.

7. Prioritize business models, structures, and approaches that are replicable and scalable for national and regional impact and influence.

We set our sights on reaching the necessary critical mass for national and regional transformation. This critical mass will be attained only through scaling strategic business solutions and leadership mobilization to a tipping point.

THEREFORE,

We, the undersigned, call on investors to join us in a new and courageous commitment to align with God's grand vision and work for our nations.

Respectfully,

Frontier Market Leaders and Operators (signatures on file)