

**Statement by Dr. Daniel U. S. Onyetulem** *CEO, Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation* On the Occasion of Financing for Development (FFD4)

At Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation, we acknowledge that achieving sustainable development requires addressing the systemic imbalances that affect growth, equity, and resilience across low- and middle-income countries. Our work involves critical global challenges that must be approached with policy action, integrated financing mechanisms, and inclusive innovation.

**On Systemic Issues and Debt Sustainability:** Unsustainable debt continues to limit the fiscal space of developing nations. A fair and transparent international debt architecture is needed—one that supports timely debt restructuring, ensures long-term sustainability, and protects essential social spending. Investment in productive capacities and social protection systems is necessary for countries to grow out of debt.

**On Mobilizing Domestic Public Resources:** Governments need efficient and equitable tax systems, should eliminate illicit financial flows, and prioritize public investments to improve the lives of their citizens. Our foundation supports grassroots health and education interventions that show the value of well-directed domestic resources. Technical support and institutional capacity are also important for success.

**On Private Sector Engagement (Domestic and International):** Domestic and international private finance can be utilized more effectively for development. De-risking mechanisms, blended finance models, and regulatory reforms can attract responsible investment in underserved communities. Transparent public-private partnerships aligned with national priorities can promote sustainable infrastructure, digital access, and job creation.

**On International Development Cooperation:** Partnerships should go beyond aid and be rooted in mutual accountability, untied assistance, and capacity-building for local institutions. We endorse scaling up Official Development Assistance (ODA), particularly for fragile health systems and community-led service delivery, which aligns with our mission.

**On International Trade as an Engine for Development:** Trade policy should support value addition, fair access to global markets, and resilient supply chains for essential goods. Trade-related capacity building, especially for women- and youth-led enterprises, can foster inclusive prosperity.

**On Science, Technology, Innovation, and Capacity Building:** Science and innovation are crucial for modern development. Investment in context-driven research, supporting local innovators, and building human capital are necessary to scale transformative solutions. Our foundation pilots tech-enabled community health platforms that exemplify this approach.

We believe that focusing on **people**—their health and agency—is an essential measure of progress. Let us commit to raising resources and standards for justice, equity, and sustainable human development.

Thank you.

**Dr. Daniel U. S. Onyetulem** Executive Director Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation

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FFD4 Multi-Stakeholder Round Table 3: Domestic and International Private Business and Finance

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, partners in development,

It is important to contribute to this dialogue on strengthening domestic and international private business and finance as drivers of sustainable development.

At Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation, our work with communities across Nigeria and West Africa provides insight into the potential and limitations of current financing ecosystems. The grassroots message is clear: private capital should be patient, inclusive, and purpose-driven.

First, the enabling environment must be addressed. Strong governance, transparent regulatory frameworks, and accessible financial infrastructure are necessary for private finance to achieve its development potential. Micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially women- and youth-led ventures, need funding support.

Second, moving from transactional investment models to transformational partnerships is essential. This involves creating vehicles for blended finance, risk-sharing facilities, and outcome-based funding mechanisms that align private returns with public good. Additionally, global financial institutions should implement reforms to de-risk investments in low-income contexts.

Third, impact accountability should be standard practice. Investors and businesses must adhere to criteria measuring financial success alongside contributions to climate resilience, decent work, and social inclusion. ESG metrics should accurately reflect lived realities.

Fourth, international private capital should support national development priorities. Investments in health, education, renewable energy, and digital infrastructure are vital for long-term value creation. Structured, transparent public-private dialogues can guide these flows.

Finally, finance is a tool to serve people. It must be governed by principles of justice, sustainability, and human dignity. Our Foundation is prepared to collaborate with partners—public and private—toward financing models that are inclusive.

Thank you.