



THE INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

....building competitive advantage for business growth

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OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (IBD)

THEME: Harnessing Digital Innovation for Nigeria's Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

DATE: 26th – 27th November, 2025
VENUE: NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja, FCT

PREAMBLE

On the historic occasion of its 10th Anniversary, the Institute of Business Development (IBD) convened a high-level strategic assembly of industry captains, diplomatic envoys, policymakers, academic luminaries, and civil society leaders. Under the overarching theme "*Harnessing Digital Innovation for Nigeria's Economic Growth and Sustainable Development*," the conference transcended a mere gathering of minds to become a watershed moment for actionable economic re-engineering.

Over two days of high-octane deliberations, the conference moved beyond the rhetoric of problems to the architecture of solutions. While Day 1 established the digital imperative with insightful presentations of the following:

Topic 1: How digital innovation can power entrepreneurship and job creation, and the insights will inspire emerging business leaders, especially women and youth, to harness technology for economic impact. | **Mrs Olubunmi Oluwaseun Kuku FBDI. MD. FAAN**



Topic 2: Entrepreneurship and Inclusiveness for a Thriving Digital Economy. | **Dr Olawale Tunde Fasanya FBDI**



Topic 3: PFintech & SMEs: Financial Inclusion & Access to Finance. | **Ms. Mimi Shelleng and Mr. Faruk Liman**



Topic 4: Innovative Empowerment Community network in Trade, Skills and Healthcare Ecosystems to foster Sustainable Socio Economic growth and Development | **Dr Lawson Usiemwanta FBDI,**



The Breakout Sessions of Day 2 provided the "Soul of the Summit," culminating in a unified resolve to build "**Bridges through Diplomatic Frameworks**"—a paradigm shift designed to transform the Nigerian narrative from desperation to dignity.



2.0 THE CORE CONSENSUS: THE "BRIDGE" PHILOSOPHY

The Conference unanimously observed that for Nigeria to ascend, we must dismantle the "Japa" syndrome of panic and replace it with a structured "Skill Export" strategy. The collective resolve is that **Nigerian youth must no longer leave as "Migrants" fleeing hardship, but as "Expatriates" exported for their value.**

To achieve this, the Conference mandates the establishment of bilateral labor agreements where tax remittances flow back to Nigeria, ensuring that our human capital flight becomes a circular economy of "Brain Gain."



3.0 CRITICAL RESOLUTIONS & STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS

Based on the synthesized rapporteur reports and the intense "stress-testing" of the Day 2 Breakout Sessions, the Conference hereby issues the following resolutions:

A. On The LEIVOTEST Agenda Selection Integrity & Resilience

Recognizing the skepticism surrounding government and agency-led training programs, the Conference resolves to adopt a radical approach to Quality Assurance and Candidate Selection.

1. **The "Blind Selection" Protocol**

To ensure resilience and eliminate opportunism, the selection of candidates for the LEIVOTEST Agenda must remain strictly **unpolitical**. Access must be meritocratic, divorced from quota systems that compromise quality.

2. **The "Hidden Incentive" Strategy**

The Conference emphatically recommends the **concealment of all startup grants, stipends, and monetary incentives** during the recruitment phase.

- **Rationale**

We must attract only those hungry for knowledge and skill, not those hunting for "national cake." Incentives should be revealed *only after* rigorous training completion. This ensures that only candidates with genuine resilience and need come forward, filtering out those with ulterior motives who would otherwise discontinue training once cash benefits are exhausted.

3. **Combating the "Jack of All Trades" Risk**

While the goal is multi-skilled youth (3-5 skills), the curriculum must prioritize "Deep Specialization" certified by International Awarding Bodies. We resolve to pursue Accreditation Partnerships that make a LEIVOTEST certificate valid globally, ensuring our youth command "Global Rates" rather than local pittance.



B. On The Care Revolutionary Ecosystem (IECN)

Addressing the integration of The Caregiver Nigeria Society and the need for a formalized "Care Economy."

1. Bridging the Trust Deficit (Security)

Acknowledging that security is the primary barrier to Domiciliary Care, the Conference advocates for the creation of a **"National Caregiver Bio-Data Registry,"** integrated with security agencies. This aims to protect

both the vulnerable elderly and the caregivers, resolving the liability question regarding theft or non-clinical accidents.

2. Cultural Re-Engineering

We resolve to launch a massive advocacy campaign to de-stigmatize paid home care. We must shift the cultural narrative from "Abandonment of Parents" to **"Specialized Professional Support."** The narrative must evolve to view Home Care not as a Western luxury, but as an African necessity for the dignity of our seniors.

3. Community Concierge Care

The Conference endorses the **Community Concierge Care** model as a vehicle for the **Innovative Empowerment Community Network (IECN)**. This creates a structured ecosystem where technology meets compassion, providing jobs for youth while offering peace of mind to the diaspora with aging parents in Nigeria.



C. On Entrepreneurship, Funding, and Digital Innovation

1. The Fintech Alternative

Noting the prohibitive interest rates of conventional banking which stifle SMEs, the Conference identifies Fintech and Decentralized Finance (DeFi) as the new frontier for accessible capital.

2. Risk Management & Resilience

Entrepreneurs are urged to pivot from "Survival Mode" to "Strategic Risk Management." The capacity to adapt—developing multiple skills and leveraging AI for critical thinking—is no longer optional but a prerequisite for relevance in the outcome economy.



4.0 CALL TO ACTION: THE IECN MANDATE & STRATEGIC CHARGE

The IBD 10th Annual Conference hereby declares the **Innovative Empowerment Community Network (IECN) Agenda** as the Institute's flagship mandate for sustainable national development.

The Vision of the IECN Agenda

The Conference recognizes that isolated initiatives often fail. Therefore, the IECN is established as the **Grand Unifying Force**—a strategic ecosystem designed to synchronize Nigeria's fragmented potential into a powerhouse of productivity. The vision of the IECN is to serve as the operational bridge between **Capacity Building** and **Service Delivery**:

- **For Skill Acquisition (LEIVOTEST)**
IECN provides the rigorous, unpolitical framework to identify and train youth based on resilience, not connection. It ensures that the "Hidden Incentive" strategy is strictly applied to filter for genuine talent.
- **For Technical Talent Development**
It transitions graduates from "trainees" to "global professionals," certifying them with skills that command respect in international labor markets.
- **For The Care Network**
It provides the immediate marketplace for these skills. By operationalizing the **Care Revolutionary Ecosystem**, the IECN creates a dignified industry where trained youths deploy their skills (medical, logistical, and domestic) to serve senior citizens, thereby solving the demographic crisis of the aging population while curbing youth unemployment.



With the IECN Agenda as our compass, we issue the following specific strategic charges:

1. To the Diplomatic Corps

We ask not for aid, but for **Frameworks**. Facilitate the bilateral agreements that allow our IECN-verified talents to function as "Expatriates" rather than "Migrants." Help us build the bridges that ensure tax

remittances flow back to Nigeria.

2. **To Policymakers**

Respect the sanctity of the IECN selection process. We demand the **concealment of all startup grants and stipends** during recruitment. Let the hunger for knowledge be the only qualification. We must allow the IECN to filter candidates by grit, ensuring that resources go to those who will build the nation, not those seeking a quick payout.

3. **To the Private Sector & Investors**

The IECN is your de-risking mechanism. Invest in this ecosystem. By supporting the standardization of skills and the **National Caregiver Bio-Data Registry**, you are investing in a secure, insurable, and high-yield human capital market.

4. **To the Architects of Social Infrastructure**

The **Care Revolutionary Ecosystem** is now active under the IECN. We call for the full integration of the Caregiver Nigeria Society into this network. We must move beyond informal help to a structured **Community Concierge Care** model—a professionalized, secure, and digitally enabled ecosystem that protects our seniors while creating millions of dignified jobs.



5.0 **CONCLUSIVELY**

The 10th Annual Conference at Nicon Luxury Hotel was not merely an event; it was the birthplace of a new consciousness. We leave Abuja not just with notes, but with a blueprint. We have settled for building **BRIDGES**.

We are committed to a future driven by the **IECN Agenda**:

A future where a Nigerian youth is defined by their **Competence** as a global expatriate, not their Location as a migrant.

A future where our society is anchored by a

Care Revolutionary Ecosystem—a transformative network where our elderly are cared for with **Dignity**, our caregivers work with **Pride**, and our culture evolves from "Guilt" to "Professional Compassion."

The time for rhetoric is over. Under the mandate of the IECN, the era of the Skilled Nigerian Expatriate and the Care Revolutionary Ecosystem has begun.

The Secretariat
Institute of Business Development (IBD)

Abuja, Nigeria

27th November, 2025