



EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN WORKING GROUP

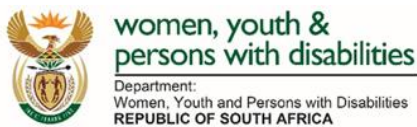
CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Theme: *Advancing Financial Inclusion, Entrepreneurship, and Gender Equity*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sun City Resort, Northwest Province, South Africa

6 to 7 May 2025



OVERVIEW

The G20 Conference on Financial Inclusion and Women's Empowerment, held under South Africa's G20 Presidency, serves as a crucial global platform for promoting financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and gender equality. An essential aspect of the conference, the Academic Track, links academic research, policy development, and practical execution, ensuring that scholarly insights lead to tangible financial and economic transformation for women and marginalised groups, and your contributions can truly make a significant impact. The Tshwane University of Technology Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, the primary conference organiser, acknowledges the urgent necessity to confront ongoing structural barriers that impede gender-equitable economic participation.

- Building on the outcomes of Brazil's 2024 Financial Inclusion and Women's Empowerment Conference, this event will:
- Foster impactful academic contributions that shape G20 strategies and national policy frameworks.
- Establish a Guidelines Framework for Mainstreaming Women's Priorities to ensure that financial empowerment remains central to regulatory and institutional reforms.
- This conference is a unique opportunity for policymakers, academics, and advocates to come together and develop practical strategies for reshaping financial ecosystems, advancing economic justice, and increasing entrepreneurial opportunities for women.

This initiative aligns with South Africa's G20 Presidency and global development priorities, including G20 EWWG Key Priority 2: Promoting the financial inclusion of and for women, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063, and South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.

The Academic Track, a cornerstone of this conference, will synthesise knowledge, shape global discourse, and catalyse transformative policies and interventions through plenary discussions, research presentations, policy dialogues, and workshops. It presents a unique opportunity for researchers, academics, and policymakers to contribute to advancing financial inclusion and women's empowerment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMIC TRACK

The Academic Track aims to establish a rigorous, evidence-based research platform that bridges the gap between academic theory, policy formulation, and financial innovation. By fostering collaboration among academia, governments, financial institutions, NGOs, and industry leaders, the track supports a multidisciplinary approach to addressing financial barriers and promoting gender equity, recognising the vital role each of you plays in this collective endeavour.

- i. Generate Evidence-Based Solutions: Provide a research-driven platform to develop innovative and practical strategies for women's empowerment.
- ii. Integrate Policy Frameworks: Create gender-responsive financial ecosystems by bridging the gap between academic research and policy



formulation. Develop a strategic roadmap for financial institutions to design inclusive products and services.

- iii. Foster Multidisciplinary Collaboration: Encourage cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary partnerships among academia, government, and the private sector to tackle systemic challenges.
- iv. Incorporate Regional and Global Perspectives: Draw from diverse experiences, particularly in developing economies, to inform comprehensive and adaptable solutions. Leverage case studies and best practices from both the Global South and Global North.
- v. Support the G20 Empowerment of Women Working Group (EWWG): Align academic contributions with G20 objectives to ensure measurable and impactful outcomes.

RESEARCH THEMES

The Academic Track will concentrate on six key thematic areas, each tackling essential financial and economic obstacles that affect women's empowerment. Researchers, academics, and policymakers are encouraged to submit papers relevant to these themes.

i. Women's Entrepreneurship and Access to Capital

Women entrepreneurs encounter structural challenges in obtaining financial support, including limited access to venture capital, microfinance, and institutional funding. This track will explore:

- Barriers to financing for women-owned businesses, such as credit constraints and discriminatory lending practices.
- Gender-responsive financial mechanisms, including tax incentives, impact investment, and procurement policies.
- Success stories and case studies of women-led enterprises and the ecosystems that have facilitated their growth.
- Pathways to financing, encompassing microloans, venture capital, and gender-responsive grant programmes.

ii. Financial Inclusion for Women in Marginalised Communities

Millions of women in rural, peri-urban, and underserved communities lack access to formal financial services. This track examines:

- Community-driven and digital financial solutions for women in low-income areas.
- The role of fintech innovations, such as mobile banking, digital wallets, and AI-driven lending, in closing the financial inclusion gap.
- Regulatory barriers and opportunities for expanding financial services to marginalised populations.
- The socio-economic impact of financial inclusion on women with disabilities and informal sector workers.



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

iii. **A Gendered Lens on Capacity Development and Financial Literacy**

Despite increasing access to financial services, many women face socio-cultural and educational barriers to fully utilising them. This track explores:

- Innovative models for gender-sensitive financial education, including mobile apps, community workshops, and NGO-led initiatives.
- The impact of cultural and social norms on women's financial decision-making.
- Policy interventions that promote gender-inclusive financial literacy programmes.

iv. **Green Economy Entrepreneurship**

The transition to a sustainable, climate-resilient economy presents new opportunities for women entrepreneurs. This track focuses on:

- Women's access to finance and investment in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and circular economy sectors.
- Gender-responsive climate finance mechanisms, such as green bonds and sustainability-linked loans.
- Case studies of women entrepreneurs successfully leading sustainable businesses.

v. **Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Gender-Inclusive Finance**

Women often face institutional and legal barriers that limit their financial independence. This track will:

- Assess the impact of gender-sensitive legal and financial policies, such as property rights, fair lending, and procurement regulations.
- Evaluate existing regulatory frameworks and their effectiveness in promoting gender equity.
- Develop guidelines for mainstreaming women's financial priorities in policy and regulation.

vi. **Economic Justice and the Valuation of Unpaid Labour**

Unpaid domestic and caregiving work disproportionately limits women's economic opportunities. This track will:

- Quantify the economic value of unpaid labour and its impact on national economies.
- Advocate for policies that recognise, reduce, and redistribute unpaid work, such as childcare services, parental leave, and caregiving incentives.

PRESENTATION FORMATS

We welcome contributions in the following formats:

- Oral Presentations** – Detailed research papers providing comprehensive analysis and policy recommendations.
- Poster Presentations** – Interactive case studies, exploratory research, or innovative solutions.



PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Accepted papers may be featured in:

- i. Special Journal Issues – Focusing on financial inclusion, women’s entrepreneurship, and gender inclusion.
 - a. One example is the special issue of the Journal of Management Development (Scopus Q1) titled “Women Entrepreneurship in the Global South.”
 - b. MDPI Administrative Sciences (Scopus Q2) titled “Women Entrepreneurship Development and Financial Inclusion”
- ii. **Book Chapters** – Selected contributions will be published in *Gender Inclusion and Financial Empowerment: Global Perspectives and Local Innovations*.
- iii. **Conference Proceedings** – A comprehensive compilation of conference insights to inform global policy and practice.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

The conference will focus on six interconnected themes aligned with global priorities:

- i. Women’s Entrepreneurship and Access to Capital
- ii. Digital and Financial Inclusion for Women
- iii. Regulatory and Policy Frameworks for Gender-Inclusive Finance
- iv. Financial Literacy and Capacity Building
- v. Women in the Green Economy
- vi. Economic Justice and the Recognition of Unpaid Labour

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract Submission Deadline: 16 March 2025 (Max 500 words)

Full Paper Submission Deadline: 20 April 2025 (Max 5,000 words, APA 7th)

Submission Portal: <https://sciforum.net/user/submission/create/1360>

Language: English

EVALUATION PROCESS

All submissions will undergo a double-peer review process. Accepted papers will be:

- Presented at the conference
- Considered for publication in associated journals
- Included in the G20 Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment Conference Proceedings

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Keynote Speakers:** Experts in financial inclusion, gender inclusion, women entrepreneurship and digital innovation
- **Workshops and Panels:** Thematic discussions on emerging trends and policy implementation.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with scholars, policymakers, and industry leaders
- **Special Sessions:** Women in finance, fintech innovations, and impact investment



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IMPORTANT DATES

Call for Papers Issued: 10 January 2025

Abstract Submission (Extended) Deadline: 16 March 2025

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 30 March 2025

Full Paper Submission Deadline: 20 April 2025

Notification of Paper Acceptance: 27 April 2025

Conference Dates: 6–7 May 2025

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