

Ideas for Action

*A youth competition on finance for development sponsored by the
World Bank Group and the Wharton School*

Submissions due January 31, 2015



Competition Guidelines and Timeline

About the Competition: Today's youth will be responsible for delivering the post-2015 development agenda, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when they expire at the end of 2015. The SDGs will be more ambitious than the MDGs, covering a broad range of interconnected issues, from sustainable economic growth, to social issues, to global public goods. To realize this vision, a just-as-ambitious plan for financing and implementation is needed.

Youth engagement throughout the design and implementation process is critical for success. The Ideas for Action (I4A) competition engages young people around the world to encourage them to develop and share their ideas for financing solutions to deliver the post-2015 development agenda.

Registration and Submission:

- **Eligibility:** Youth between the ages 18 and 35 from around the world can participate.
- **Team Composition:** This is a team competition. Teams must be 2 to 5 people and may consist of multiple nationalities and individuals from different schools, institutions, companies, etc.
- **Registration:** Please register your teams at [this link](#) before submitting your proposal to the I4A competition. To receive updates and information on the competition and post-2015 agenda you may also want to register all team members on the wider [distribution list](#).
- **Submission:** Proposals should be submitted to the I4A email account (ideasforaction2015@gmail.com) no later than 11:59 PM EST on January 31, 2015.

Competition Timeline:

- **Informational session:** January 8, 2015; 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST at World Bank Headquarters. The session can also be accessed online. Details will be sent out through the distribution list.
- **Deadline for submissions:** January 31, 2015
- **Announcement of submissions selected for final round:** February 22, 2015*
- **Deadline for final submissions (incl. comments received, if applicable):** March 20, 2015
- **Announcement of winner(s):** April 5, 2015

** Finalists may be asked to expand upon their original submissions before final review. Details will be given to selected teams.*

Format:

Proposals should be between 1,500 and 3,000 words, with proper citations and references. The word count does not include the appendix, footnotes/citations, or any charts/graphs.

Teams should use the template in appendix 1 and include a 200-word abstract summarizing the key points of the proposal.

The submission must be in Times New Roman, 12 pt font. All appropriate information must be cited. It should be sent in PDF or Microsoft Word format (in English, Arabic, French, Russian or Spanish).

Please note: Participants reaching the final round must provide their submission in English.

Solution Areas:

The expectation for teams is to focus on one of the issues below and develop a creative yet realistic and implementable solution that will increase the financing available and/or improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing funds. Another possibility is to select more than one issue, and develop a solution that is based on blended sources of finance.

- (1) Domestic Resource Mobilization: improving the ability of countries to collect and direct public resources generated from taxes and/or improve efficiency of public spending.** Areas of particular relevance are (i) tax policy and collection; (ii) harnessing sustainable streams of revenue from natural resources; (iii) subsidy reform; (iv) improving public sector procurement practices

Examples of submission topics: “Restructuring mineral extraction contracts in Sub-Saharan Africa to provide more sustainable social benefit and financial return;”
“Subsidizing crops of the future: how a change in agricultural subsidies in one South American country can be a lesson to others”

- (2) Better and Smarter Aid: improving how aid is structured and disbursed in light of a rapidly changing donor environment.** Areas of particular relevance are (i) improving aid disbursement models; (ii) improving aid transparency and accountability; (iii) integrating private philanthropy and global funds into the greater aid agenda.

Examples of submission topics: “A new model for recipient-centric accountability mechanisms in ODA loan programs;” “Using different results metrics to improve aid project outcomes”

- (3) International Private Finance: improving business environments to attract investment.** Areas of particular are: (i) creating policies that encourage investment, particularly in long time infrastructure; (ii) mainstreaming the use of guarantees and risk insurance.

Examples of submission topics: “Co-financing arrangements as a means to increased roadway investment in Sub-Saharan Africa;” “Taxes, construction regulation, and urban sewage reform in Southeast Asia”; “improving project cycle and investment environment to attract institutional investors including sovereign wealth funds”; “Implementing policies and mechanisms to direct remittances towards development”.

- (4) Domestic Private Sector: mobilizing domestic private capital.** Areas of particular relevance are (i) creating an enabling environment for business creation and growth, (ii) increasing access to finance, greater financial inclusion for households and SMEs, and (iii) developing domestic capital markets.

Example of submission topics: “A new type of aid: improving small and medium-sized enterprise access to financing via novel national-scale loan instruments.”

- (5) Business and Development Innovations: improving business environments in developing economies via innovative private/public partnership models.** Areas of particular relevance are: (i) grafting and implementing business-led collective action initiatives; (ii) innovative models of delivering aid using private sector capabilities and public sector resources.

Examples of submission topics: “A novel model for new-country investment: using public funds to limit fixed costs of electronic equipment manufacturing;” “Limiting private-public corruption with new public awareness tools in Central Asia”

For more information about the first 4 options, see the [World Bank Paper on Finance for Development Post-2015](#). For more information about the fifth option, see the [Wharton Zicklin Center Business Development & Innovation site](#).

Evaluation criteria for submissions

The first round of submissions will be evaluated according to how well teams demonstrate:

- **Significance:** teams should be specific enough that they can go into some level of depth, but significant enough that it impacts a large number of people and/or businesses and nations.
- **Originality and creativity:** teams should present a solution that is original and creative; submissions should present ideas that are either undeveloped or severely underdeveloped in international development research and literature.
- **Feasibility:** teams should include a brief ‘roadmap to adoption’ that argues for the feasibility of the solution, and addresses any obvious roadblocks; all submissions should be actionable and measurable; based in practicality rather than just theory. Teams are encouraged to tie their submissions to a particular country or region of the world.
- **Clarity:** teams should present their idea in a clear and concise manner.

Additional References:

- World Bank Group Web Site on the Post-2015 Agenda: www.worldbank.org/post2015/
- [World Bank Group Paper: Finance for Development Post 2015](#)
- [Report of the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing](#)
- [Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda](#)

Awards:

Winners of the competition will be given an opportunity to influence the post-2015 financing discussions and its implementation, including:

- Present winning proposal at the IMF/World Bank Spring and/or Annual Meetings in April and October 2015, respectively.
- Engagement with experts from development organizations, academia, and business on finance for development post-2015.
- Participation in a boot camp, where the winners will visit a company, organization or university to take part in specific project implementation and get hands on experience.
- Participation in the Wharton School of Business Executive Development Program and Knowledge Exchange.

For questions please email: ideasforaction2015@gmail.com.

Appendix 1:

Suggested Template:

Ideas for Action Competition

Your proposal should include (but not be limited to) the following:

1. Title of proposal
2. Team Name
3. Short Abstract (200 words)
4. Explanation of problem and context: (200-400 words)
5. Explanation of Solution: (700-1,400 words)
 - Why is it relevant?
 - What is new about it?
 - By who, what, how and when would it be implemented?
 - What is the expected impact?
6. Are there similar examples that can be provided? If so, where and how? Please elaborate. (150-300 words)
7. What are challenges you might confront and how might they be addressed? (200-400 words)
8. Any additional information, as you see fit

Proposal should be between 1,500-3,000 words.