

APPRAISAL OF ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND FINANCIAL MARKET SIZE IN NEW YORK, LONDON, TOKYO AND NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study offers an evaluation of the economic background, financial systems, and market sizes of four key financial centres: New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria. These markets exhibit differing levels of development, global impact, and regulatory structures; each individually contributing to the global financial environment. New York is the biggest financial centre globally, characterised by substantial liquidity, market variety, and robust regulatory supervision. London's financial system is distinguished by its long existence, global scope, convenient time zone, fintech advancements, and responsiveness to post-Brexit regulatory obstacles. Tokyo features a substantial domestic market characterised by a conservative investing ethos mixed with fintech drive whereas Nigeria exemplifies a developing market with growth prospects driven by its sizable population and fintech-oriented financial inclusion efforts. The research emphasizes critical elements like technological improvements, regulatory changes, and the influence of geopolitical concerns through a comparative examination of different financial systems. The text examines the dimensions and liquidity of each market, demonstrating the substantial variations in market capitalisation, trade volumes, and economic impact across different financial centres. The study concludes by delineating prospective trends that may transform these financial markets, encompassing the emergence of fintech, the integration of technology, and the changing role of retail investors. Among others, the study recommended that financial regulators across all four markets must persist in adapting and fortifying regulatory frameworks to mitigate growing risks, especially with technology and cryptocurrencies. Lucid and transparent laws will enhance investor trust and market stability.

Keywords: Financial systems, financial markets, New York, London, Tokyo, Nigeria, fintech, market size, regulatory frameworks, financial inclusion.

Introduction

The global financial system underpins economic activity by supplying the infrastructure essential for commerce, investment, and the effective distribution of resources worldwide (Allen & Gale, 2007). Financial centres serve a pivotal function in this system, functioning as hubs for the raising, trading, and allocation of money across diverse economic sectors. In a period marked by heightened globalisation and technological progress, the significance of resilient financial markets has become increasingly evident (Zhang & Xie, 2021). This article offers a thorough evaluation of the economic contexts, financial infrastructures, and market dimensions of four prominent global financial centres: New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria.

These four areas exemplify a varied range of financial market maturity, development, and impact on both local and global economies. New York is universally acknowledged as the preeminent financial hub globally, chiefly owing to the existence of prominent stock exchanges such as the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and NASDAQ. These exchanges are essential in global financial markets, facilitating capital creation for companies across several industries, including technology and manufacturing. The financial ecosystem of New York is underpinned by a network of banks, investment funds, hedge funds, and private equity companies, resulting in a robust and liquid market that draws both local and foreign investors (New York Stock Exchange, 2023). The significance of New York in establishing global financial trends and shaping the trajectory of foreign markets is paramount.

London, traditionally a preeminent force in global banking, persists as a crucial financial hub despite recent adversities, including Brexit. The city is distinguished for its prominence in foreign currency trading, bond markets, and its function as a significant hub for international finance. London's time zone, coinciding with both Asian and American markets, affords it a distinct edge in global financial transactions (Bank of England, 2023). The London Stock Exchange (LSE), is among the oldest and most esteemed globally, persists in enabling capital acquisition for domestic and international enterprises, despite facing competition from New York and Asian financial markets in recent years (International Monetary Fund, 2023). Nonetheless, London continues to be a pivotal entity in global finance, with its financial industry ranking among the foremost contributors to the UK economy.

Tokyo, although sometimes eclipsed by New York and London in global finance discourse, continues to be a vital financial hub, especially in Asia. Japan possesses a highly advanced financial system, with Tokyo housing one of the world's major stock markets by market capitalisation (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). The Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) serves as a crucial place for Japanese and international companies seeking to acquire money in Asia. Furthermore, Japan's bond market, especially its government bonds, constitutes a crucial element of the global financial framework, offering a stable investment opportunity for both local and foreign investors (OECD, 2023). Notwithstanding the difficulties presented

by Japan's ageing demographic and sustained low interest rate conditions, Tokyo's financial sector continues to be essential to the global financial system.

Nigeria starkly contrasts with the established financial systems of New York, London, and Tokyo. Nigeria, being Africa's largest economy, has financial markets that are at a developing stage, however, they have considerable growth potential (World Bank, 2023). The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) has experienced growth in recent years, marked by heightened involvement from both local and international investors. Nigeria's financial system is significantly impacted by its dependence on oil exports, which provide a substantial share of the nation's foreign exchange revenues (International Monetary Fund, 2023). Efforts are underway to diversify the economy and enhance the financial system, focussing specifically on industries such as telecommunications, agriculture, and financial technology (FinTech). Nigeria's ongoing reforms to enhance financial inclusion and draw foreign investment may lead to greater integration of its financial markets into the global financial system (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2022).

This research aims to examine the dynamics of various financial centres, assessing their evolution under distinct economic and regulatory frameworks. This article will analyse the economic backgrounds, financial systems, and market sizes of major financial centres to assess their interactions with the global financial system and their impact on economic performance locally and globally. Each financial market encounters distinct difficulties and possibilities influenced by local and worldwide economic trends, regulatory structures, and technology innovations. This article analyses the strengths and shortcomings of various financial centres to elucidate their pivotal role in influencing global financial flows and economic growth.

This appraisal focused on the historical evolution of each financial market, the regulatory framework overseeing financial activities, the liquidity and scale of the markets, the variety of financial products available, and the global importance of each market. A comparative examination will elucidate how New York, London, and Tokyo have established themselves as global financial powerhouses, whereas Nigeria is characterised as a frontier market with significant development potential. The article also examined the issues confronting these financial institutions, such as legislative alterations, technology upheavals, economic fluctuations, and geopolitical threats.

The article analysed these aspects to elucidate the changing dynamics of global finance and how financial hubs such as New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria are adjusting to emerging issues in an interconnected environment. The results will impact regulators, investors, and financial experts managing the intricacies of the global financial system.

2.0 Overview of Economic Backgrounds

A comprehension of the economic contexts of New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria is essential for recognising the functions these financial centres serve within their own economies and on a global scale. The economic systems of these areas are influenced by

their trading history, structural attributes, and policy frameworks. This section explored the economic background of each area, highlighting the development of their economies alongside their economic structures and the distinctive contributions each region makes to the global economy.

New York

New York, sometimes designated as the financial centre of the world, is pivotal to the economy of the United States, which boasts the greatest global economy with a GDP over \$25 trillion (Financial Times, 2023). The economic history of the city is closely linked to its emergence as a significant centre for commerce, industry, and banking, originating in the late 18th century. In the 19th century, New York's advantageous position as a port city enabled its evolution into a vibrant hub for business and trade, establishing the groundwork for the emergence of its financial markets. The founding of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in 1792 was a significant event that initiated New York's rise as a worldwide financial hub (New York Stock Exchange, 2023).

During the 20th century, New York's financial industry had substantial growth, bolstered by the swift industrialisation of the U.S. economy, the emergence of prominent firms, and the increasing demand for advanced financial services (Financial Times, 2023). The financial markets of the city, notably the NYSE and subsequently the NASDAQ, were pivotal for corporate capital creation, facilitating enterprises in securing essential funding for development and expansion (New York Stock Exchange, 2023). The financial sector's supremacy was established in the post-World War II era, as the U.S. ascended to the position of the world's foremost economic power, with New York serving as the nucleus of global finance.

Currently, New York's financial industry accounts for over 10% of the city's GDP, establishing it as one of the predominant businesses in the area (Financial Times, 2023). The city hosts an extensive array of financial institutions, comprising investment banks, hedge funds, private equity firms, and insurance organisations. Wall Street, the emblematic financial district, represents New York's international financial influence. The city's economy is propelled by its financial markets as well as its flourishing real estate, media, and technology industries. The legal and regulatory framework in New York is well-established, with entities like the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York significantly contributing to the oversight of financial operations and the maintenance of financial stability (New York Stock Exchange, 2023).

The economic environment of New York has experienced substantial transformations in recent decades, primarily due to globalisation, technology advancements, and regulatory reforms. The city has adopted financial technology (FinTech), becoming as a premier hub for innovation in this domain, with advancements such as blockchain, digital currencies, and algorithmic trading transforming the financial industry. The ongoing integration of global markets has solidified New York's status as a pivotal hub in the worldwide financial

system, with foreign capital consistently transiting its exchanges (New York Stock Exchange, 2023).

London

London, one of the most ancient financial hubs globally, has always been essential to international finance. The UK's economy, with a GDP of around \$3.2 trillion, ranks among the largest in Europe and is the sixth-largest worldwide (Bank of England, 2023). London's status as a financial centre originated in the 17th century, when the city became a focal point for international commerce and finance. The creation of organisations like the Bank of England (1694) and the London Stock Exchange (1801) established the framework for London's financial infrastructure, which has remained essential to the city's economy thereafter (Bank of England, 2023).

At the zenith of the British Empire, London served as the preeminent global financial hub, enabling commerce and investment throughout the empire's extensive domains. The city's supremacy in global finance was bolstered by its extensive capital markets, refined banking system, and modern legal and regulatory structures (Financial Conduct Authority, 2023). Despite the empire's demise in the 20th century, London sustained its position as a premier financial hub, adapting to the demands of a transforming global economy. The city's financial markets have become more worldwide, drawing investors and enterprises from throughout the world (Bank of England, 2023).

In recent decades, London's economy has flourished, with the financial services industry serving as a major contributor. The City of London, a historic financial area, continues to serve as a global hub for banking, insurance, and asset management. London's foreign exchange market is the largest globally, accounting for around 37% of worldwide FX activity (London Stock Exchange Group, 2023). The city is a significant participant in the bond markets, including a highly liquid market for government and corporate debt.

Nonetheless, London's financial sector has seen difficulties in recent years, especially following the United Kingdom's decision to depart the European Union (Brexit). Brexit has generated doubt about London's status as a premier financial centre, raising fears over probable loss of access to European markets and the migration of financial institutions to other European cities (London Stock Exchange Group, 2023). Notwithstanding these problems, London has demonstrated resilience, persistently attracting investment and upholding its position as a premier hub for financial innovation.

The economy of London is bolstered by a proficient workforce, exceptional infrastructure, and a strong regulatory framework. The city's time zone, coinciding with both Asian and North American trading hours, provides a distinct edge in worldwide financial operations. Moreover, London's legal framework, rooted in common law, is regarded as one of the most transparent and conducive to investment globally, hence augmenting its appeal as a premier financial centre (Financial Conduct Authority, 2023).

Tokyo

Tokyo, the capital of Japan and one of the world's major cities, serves as the hub of the third-largest global economy, with Japan's GDP estimated at roughly \$4.9 trillion (Financial Services Agency, 2023). Tokyo's rise as a financial hub started in the post-war era, coinciding with Japan's swift industrialisation and economic expansion, establishing it as one of the globe's foremost economies (World Economic Forum, 2023). The Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE), founded in 1878, has been pivotal to Japan's financial evolution, enabling the expansion of its capital markets and significantly contributing to the nation's post-war economic resurgence.

The economic surge in Japan throughout the 1960s and 1970s was propelled by an export-oriented manufacturing strategy, with pivotal sectors including autos, electronics, and machinery emerging as global frontrunners (Financial Times, 2023). The financial markets of Tokyo grew in tandem with the nation's industrial development, resulting in the Tokyo Stock Exchange being one of the largest stock exchanges globally by market capitalisation. The Japanese government significantly influenced the nation's financial sector through measures designed to foster stability and encourage long-term investment.

Currently, Tokyo's financial system is distinguished by its profound and liquid markets, especially in stocks and government bonds. The Tokyo Stock Exchange is among the largest globally, boasting a market capitalisation over \$6 trillion (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). Japan's bond market, especially its government bonds, is among the largest worldwide, with Japanese government bonds (JGBs) seen as a safe haven for investors owing to the nation's stable political climate and robust regulatory structure.

Tokyo's financial markets encounter several obstacles, especially due to Japan's ageing demographic and extended phases of economic stagnation. Japan has had sluggish economic development and deflationary pressures for a significant portion of the previous two decades, impacting the performance of its financial markets (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). The country's low-interest-rate environment, sustained by the Bank of Japan's accommodating monetary policy, has adversely affected the profitability of financial institutions and constrained investment returns in domestic markets (Financial Services Agency, 2023).

Notwithstanding these issues, Tokyo continues to be a significant participant in global finance, especially within Asia. The city's financial infrastructure is bolstered by cutting-edge technology and innovation, with Tokyo at the forefront of electronic trading and payment systems. The Japanese government has enacted measures to enhance corporate governance and bolster the competitiveness of its financial markets, aiming to attract increased foreign investment and establish Tokyo as a premier financial hub in the region.

Nigeria

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy with a GDP of \$440 billion, has a markedly distinct economic landscape in comparison to New York, London, and Tokyo (Central Bank of

Nigeria, 2022). The nation's economic framework is predominantly dependent on its oil and gas sector, which constitutes over 90% of its foreign exchange revenues and over 60% of governmental income (International Monetary Fund, 2023). The dependence on oil has influenced the evolution of Nigeria's financial system, which is rather modest in size relative to the global financial hubs of New York, London, and Tokyo.

The Nigerian economy has seen cycles of expansion and contraction, mostly influenced by variations in global oil prices. The nation's financial system has developed in reaction to these economic dynamics, with the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) acting as the principal venue for capital acquisition in the country. In recent years, Nigeria has endeavoured to diversify its economy, witnessing substantial growth in sectors such as agriculture, telecommunications, and financial services.

The Nigerian government has implemented reforms to enhance the financial system and foster financial inclusion. The changes encompass the liberalisation of the banking system, the implementation of mobile banking and FinTech technologies, and initiatives to enhance the regulatory framework (KPMG, 2022). Nigeria's financial sector has substantial obstacles, such as political instability, inflation, currency devaluation, and inadequate infrastructure.

Notwithstanding these problems, Nigeria's financial sectors have considerable opportunities for expansion. The nation's youthful and expanding demographic offers prospects for the proliferation of financial services, especially in digital finance and mobile banking sectors. Nigeria's strategic location as a conduit to the African continent renders it an appealing destination for foreign investment, especially considering the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which seeks to establish a unified market for goods and services throughout Africa (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2022).

Nigeria's financial system is in a developmental phase, however it has achieved considerable advancements in recent years. The nation's banking system has grown increasingly competitive, with a rising number of domestic and international banks participating in the market. The Nigerian Stock Exchange has experienced a rise in listings, as an increasing number of companies opt to raise capital via the exchange. As the nation advances economic reforms and diversifies its economy, Nigeria's financial system possesses the potential for greater integration into the global financial system.

3. Financial Systems

Financial systems encompass a network of institutions that facilitate exchange of funds and services among participants such as lenders, investors and borrowers. Major components of financial systems are financial markets, financial instruments, financial institutions, financial services and market participants.

This section considered the financial systems of New York, London, Tokyo and Nigeria by highlighting the development of their financial systems components, regulatory framework and financial services/products.

New York

New York's financial system is undoubtedly the most advanced and impactful globally. It is supported by a comprehensive and varied array of financial institutions, encompassing commercial and investment banks, hedge funds, private equity firms, insurance companies, and asset management corporations. The two principal components of New York's financial system are its capital markets and banking industry, both of which are crucial to the global economy (Financial Times, 2023).

i) Capital Markets: The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and NASDAQ

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and NASDAQ are the two largest stock exchanges globally by market capitalisation (New York Stock Exchange, 2023). Collectively, they constitute the foundation of the U.S. capital markets, facilitating a mechanism for corporations to acquire money through the issuance of equity and debt securities. The NYSE, founded in 1792, is the largest stock exchange globally, boasting a market capitalisation of \$26 trillion (New York Stock Exchange, 2023). It enumerates several prominent global corporations, encompassing blue-chip enterprises across diverse industries like technology, finance, healthcare, and manufacturing. The NASDAQ, established in 1971, is the world's second-largest stock market, distinguished by its emphasis on technology firms, housing prominent tech titans such as Apple, Microsoft, and Alphabet (New York Stock market, 2023; Financial Times, 2023).

The capital markets of New York are characterised by substantial liquidity, depth, and efficiency. These markets provide corporations access to extensive capital resources and enable investors to diversify their portfolios across many asset classes, including stocks, bonds, commodities, and derivatives (Baker & Ricciardi, 2014; Financial Times, 2023). Alongside the NYSE and NASDAQ, New York's capital markets encompass a substantial and vibrant bond market, whereby both corporate and government bonds are vital in funding public and private sector endeavours.

ii) Banking Sector

The banking sector in New York is strong, with both big global banks and smaller regional institutions. Prominent investment banks, like Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, and Citigroup, maintain their worldwide or North American headquarters in New York, enhancing the city's status as a global financial centre (Financial Times, 2023). These banks participate in many operations, such as mergers and acquisitions, underwriting, trading, wealth management, and asset management. The commercial banking industry is substantial, with institutions offering loans, savings products, and various financial services to people, enterprises, and governments.

As reported by Financial Times (2022), financial institutions in New York are overseen by many regulatory authorities, including the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC). These institutions guarantee the stability and openness of New York's financial system, establishing it as a reliable destination for both local and foreign investors.

iii) Derivatives and Commodity Markets

New York is a prominent hub for the trading of derivatives and commodities. The New York Stock Exchange (2023) indicates that the city has significant commodities exchanges, including the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) and the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE). These platforms enable the trading of futures and options contracts across several commodities, including crude oil, natural gas, gold, silver, and agricultural goods. The derivatives market in New York includes interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, and foreign currency derivatives, utilised by corporations and investors for risk management.

London

London's financial system is among the most global and varied in the world. It functions as the financial conduit to Europe and has always been a pivotal hub for global finance owing to its dominance in foreign currency trading, international banking, and insurance sectors.

i) Foreign Exchange (Forex) Market

The financial system of London is supported by the largest foreign exchange (Forex) market globally. London accounts for around 37% of worldwide foreign exchange transactions, establishing it as the preeminent centre for currency trading (Financial Conduct Authority, 2023). The city's time zone, which connects trade hours in Asia and North America, provides it with a distinct edge in this regard. The forex market in London exhibits considerable liquidity, with significant trading activity in key currency pairings like EUR/USD, GBP/USD, and USD/JPY. This market is essential for international commerce, investment, and monetary policy, enabling governments, businesses, and investors to exchange currencies for hedging, speculative, or operational objectives.

ii) International Banking

London is a premier hub for international banking, with more than 250 foreign institutions (London Stock Exchange, 2023). Numerous banks, mostly based in Europe, North America, and Asia, offer an extensive array of services, encompassing trade finance, project financing, wealth management, and investment banking. The existence of multinational banks bolsters London's position as a centre for cross-border financial transactions and global financial flows. Prominent global banks, including HSBC, Barclays, Standard Chartered, and the Bank of England, are essential components of the financial ecosystem,

enhancing London's prominence in the international banking sector (London Stock Exchange, 2023).

iii) Insurance and Reinsurance Markets

London hosts one of the globe's largest and most significant insurance markets, centred on Lloyd's of London, a historic entity specialising in the reinsurance of intricate and large-scale risks (Bank of England, 2023). The insurance and reinsurance sectors in London cater to a worldwide clientele, addressing risks from natural calamities to cyber threats. London's insurance markets possess significant depth and sophistication, establishing it as a pivotal entity in global risk management, especially with high-value or specialised insurance products (London Stock Exchange, 2023; Bank of England, 2023).

iv) Fixed Income Markets

The bond market constitutes a crucial element of London's financial system. The city possesses a very liquid market for government and corporate debt, drawing both local and international investors (London Stock Exchange, 2023). The bond markets in London are recognised for their versatility, including products like gilt-edged securities (UK government bonds), Eurobonds, and corporate bonds. These markets are vital for funding public initiatives, business growth, and infrastructure development. They significantly influence interest rates and monetary policy.

v) Regulatory Framework

The financial system of London is underpinned by a thorough and transparent regulatory structure. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) are the primary regulatory entities supervising financial firms in the city (Financial Conduct Authority, 2023). These authorities uphold the integrity, equity, and stability of London's financial markets, establishing a framework that enables financial businesses to operate securely and effectively. Notwithstanding the uncertainty associated with Brexit, London persists as a rigorously regulated and reputable financial hub, consistently drawing global money and sustaining its pre-eminence in several critical financial markets. (Financial Times, 2023)

Tokyo

Tokyo's banking system is pivotal to Japan's economy, the third-largest globally. The financial markets of the city are recognised for their depth, especially in stocks and government bonds, and its financial institutions are among the largest globally by assets.

i) Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE): The Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) is among the greatest stock exchanges worldwide by market capitalisation, emphasising both domestic and foreign firms (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). The TSE hosts many of the globe's major firms, including Toyota, Sony, and SoftBank. The equities market in Japan is defined by long-term investing strategies, with a substantial involvement of institutional investors. Although the market lacks the liquidity of New York or London, the TSE is an essential element of the global financial system, particularly in Asia.

ii) Fixed Income Markets: The bond market in Japan, especially its government bonds (Japanese Government Bonds or JGBs), is among the largest and most liquid globally. The JGB market is fundamental to the nation's financial system, offering a low-risk investment option for both local and foreign investors (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). The Bank of Japan's enduring low-interest rate monetary policy has maintained relatively low yields on Japanese Government Bonds (JGBs), however the market continues to be appealing owing to its perceived stability.

iii) Financial Services Sector: The banking sector in Tokyo is characterised by significant concentration, with a few megabanks prevailing in the market. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Sumitomo Mitsui financial Corporation, and Mizuho Financial Group are the three preeminent financial organisations in Japan, significantly influencing both domestic finance and international banking (Bank for International Settlements, 2022). These banks participate in many operations, encompassing retail banking, corporate finance, wealth management, and international trade finance. The banking industry in Japan is extensively regulated, with the Financial Services Agency (FSA) supervising the stability and integrity of the financial system.

iv) Derivative and Futures Markets: Tokyo serves as a significant hub for derivatives and futures trading. The Tokyo Financial currency (TFX) and the Osaka Exchange (OSE) are essential venues for trading financial derivatives, including as interest rate futures, stock index futures, and foreign currency derivatives (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). These markets are essential for risk management, enabling investors and organisations to hedge against variations in interest rates, stock prices, and currency values.

Nigeria

Nigeria's financial sector is a nascent frontier market, currently in developing phases while exhibiting considerable growth potential. Nigeria, as Africa's largest economy, possesses financial markets that are vital to the continent's economic outlook. However, they

encounter several problems, such as political instability, regulatory inefficiency, and infrastructural deficiencies.

i) Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE): The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) serves as the principal venue for stock trading in Nigeria. Despite being comparatively smaller than New York, London, or Tokyo, the NSE has had consistent growth, attracting more involvement from both domestic and foreign investors (Nigerian Exchange Group, 2023). The NSE enumerates several prominent organisations in Nigeria, encompassing the banking, telecommunications, and energy industries. Nevertheless, market liquidity is a hurdle due to a limited number of active traders and insufficient variety among listed businesses.

ii) Banking Sector: The banking industry in Nigeria is among the most active elements of the financial system. The industry is primarily controlled by several major banks, such as First Bank of Nigeria, UBA GTBank, Access Bank and Zenith Bank which own vast networks domestically and outside Africa (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2022). The banking system has experienced substantial reforms in recent years, focused on boosting stability, decreasing non-performing loans, and improving regulatory control. Nonetheless, obstacles persist, especially regarding financial inclusion, since a significant segment of the population continues to lack access to formal banking services.

iii) Regulatory Framework: The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) regulates Nigeria's financial system, overseeing the banking sector, monetary policy, and financial stability. The Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) governs the capital markets, whilst the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) supervises the insurance industry (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2022). Notwithstanding these regulatory entities, Nigeria's financial sector encounters obstacles associated with corruption, regulatory inefficacies, and insufficient implementation of financial regulations (Bank for International Settlements, 2022). Enhancing these institutions is essential for the advancement of a more resilient financial system.

iv) Informal Financial Sector: A substantial segment of Nigeria's financial operations transpires within the informal sector, encompassing microfinance institutions, informal savings clubs, and moneylenders. This sector is essential in delivering financial services to the unbanked people, especially in rural regions. The informal character of these financial operations presents obstacles for regulation, transparency, and inclusion into the larger financial system.

4. Financial Market Size and Performance

The financial market dimensions and performance in New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria are essential indications of the vitality of their individual economies and offer insights into their functions within the global financial system. This section examined the dimensions, critical indicators, and performance patterns of the financial markets in each area highlighting their size and importance for both domestic and foreign investors.

4.1 New York's Financial Market Size and Performance

The financial markets of New York rank among the largest and most significant globally. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is the largest stock exchange in the world by market capitalisation, with listed businesses valued at over \$28 trillion (New York Stock Exchange, 2023). The Exchange encompasses a varied range of sectors, including technology, banking, healthcare, and consumer products. The NYSE's depth and liquidity facilitate substantial capital acquisition for enterprises, fostering economic development and innovation.

The success of the NYSE is frequently assessed by important indexes, notably the S&P 500, which monitors the performance of 500 of the largest publicly listed firms in the United States (Financial Times, 2023). In recent years, the S&P 500 has seen substantial expansion, propelled by vigorous corporate earnings, minimal interest rates, and healthy consumer expenditure. The Nasdaq Composite Index, predominantly composed of technology equities, has seen exceptional success, indicative of the swift expansion of the tech industry and investor enthusiasm for innovation (World Economic Forum, 2023).

The New York bond market is similarly important, featuring a variety of fixed-income instruments such as corporate bonds, municipal bonds, and U.S. Treasury securities. The U.S. Treasury market functions as a benchmark for global interest rates and is seen as a safe haven for investors amid economic turmoil (Financial Times, 2023). The magnitude and liquidity of the bond market enhance the overall stability of the financial system.

Furthermore, New York's financial sector has progressively adopted technology, evidenced by the emergence of electronic trading platforms and algorithmic trading. These innovations have augmented market efficiency, diminished transaction costs, and facilitated increased access for investors. The use of technology into trading methods has drawn new players to the market, hence enhancing its size and liquidity (OECD, 2023).

The performance of New York's financial markets mirrors overarching economic trends, such as GDP growth, employment rates, and consumer confidence. The city's capacity to adjust to fluctuating economic circumstances and adopt innovation has solidified its position as a premier financial centre.

4.2 Size and Performance of London's Financial Market

The financial market of London is a significant participant in the global financial system, noted for its scale and diversity. The London Stock Exchange (LSE) is among the largest

stock exchanges globally, boasting a market capitalisation of \$4 trillion (London Stock Exchange, 2023). The LSE has approximately 2,000 firms from over 60 nations, establishing it as a crucial platform for global capital acquisition.

The success of London's financial markets is meticulously observed by indexes like the FTSE 100, which measures the performance of the 100 largest businesses listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE, 2023). The FTSE 100 serves as a crucial indicator of the UK economy and is extensively utilised by investors to assess market mood. In recent years, the index has exhibited volatility, affected by variables including Brexit, global trade disputes, and economic concerns.

London's financial industry is renowned for its dominance in foreign currency trading, representing over 37% of the worldwide FX market. This pre-eminence is bolstered by the presence of prominent international banks and trading organisations, making London an essential centre for currency operations. The City of London functions as a pivotal hub for global capital movements, supported by a strong network of foreign currency brokers and trading platforms that enhance market operations.

The London bond market is notably important, with the UK government bond market (Gilts) being among the largest and most liquid globally. The Bank of England is essential in regulating monetary policy and impacting bond market performance via interest rate determinations and quantitative easing strategies.

In recent years, London's financial industry has had difficulties, especially following Brexit, which has heightened apprehensions over the city's enduring competitiveness as a financial centre. Nonetheless, London has demonstrated resilience via ongoing initiatives to attract international investment and adjust to the evolving regulatory environment. The city's legal system, grounded on common law, offers a considerable advantage by ensuring a transparent and investor-friendly climate.

The efficacy of London's financial markets is affected by international economic circumstances, investor mood, and regulation changes. The city's capability to retain its position as a premier financial centre relies on its ability to innovate, adapt to difficulties, and use its assets within a competitive global landscape.

4.3 Size and Performance of Tokyo's Financial Market

Tokyo hosts one of the major financial markets in Asia, with the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) acting as a pivotal platform for capital acquisition and investment. The TSE possesses a market capitalisation of over \$6 trillion, positioning it among the greatest stock exchanges worldwide (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). The exchange has approximately 3,700 businesses, including many of the world's leading enterprises in technology, automotive, and financial industries.

The success of Tokyo's financial markets is assessed by various indexes, notably the Nikkei 225, which monitors the performance of 225 prominent firms on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (2023). The Nikkei 225 has traditionally served as a vital gauge of Japan's economic vitality

and investor confidence. In recent years, the index has undergone swings attributable to several variables, including global economic conditions, internal policy alterations, and the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023).

Tokyo's financial sector is distinguished by its significant bond market, especially in Japanese Government Bonds (JGBs), seen as a secure investment. The Japanese Government Bond market is the largest globally, with outstanding debt over \$9 trillion. The Bank of Japan significantly impacts bond market performance via its monetary policy, which encompasses low-interest rates and asset acquisition programmes designed to foster economic development.

Furthermore, Tokyo's financial sector is characterised by a significant degree of technological integration. The city excels in electronic trading, including sophisticated trading platforms and technologies that facilitate quick transactions. This technical breakthrough has improved market liquidity and attracted overseas investors interested in Japan's financial markets.

Tokyo's financial markets, despite their capabilities, encounter obstacles stemming from Japan's demographic trends and economic stagnation. The increasing elderly demographic and decreasing birth rate have generated apprehensions regarding sustained economic expansion and consumer expenditure. The Japanese government has enacted changes to enhance corporate governance, boost foreign investment, and promote innovation in the financial industry.

The performance of Tokyo's financial markets is affected by several variables, including local economic policies, global economic trends, and geopolitical happenings. As Japan adapts to evolving market conditions, Tokyo's financial markets will remain integral to the wider Asian and global financial systems.

4.4 The Size and Performance of Nigeria's Financial Market

Nigeria possesses the largest financial market in Africa, with the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) functioning as a vital platform for capital acquisition and investment. The NSE possesses a market capitalisation of over \$60 billion, establishing it as a significant entity in the African financial sector (Nigerian Exchange Group, 2023). The exchange features a varied selection of firms, prominently include areas such as banking, telecommunications, and consumer products.

Nigeria's financial markets have exhibited volatility, driven by causes like oil price swings, political instability, and macroeconomic difficulties. The NSE All-Share Index serves as the principal benchmark for assessing market performance, indicating the overall condition of the stock market. In recent years, the index has undergone fluctuations, exhibiting both growth and fall, indicative of the overarching economic issues confronting Nigeria.

Nigeria's bond market is substantial, offering a diverse array of government and business bonds for investment purposes. The Nigerian government sells bonds to fund infrastructure projects and governmental spending, attracting both domestic and

international investors. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is crucial in controlling the bond market, affecting interest rates and maintaining market stability.

The Nigerian financial industry has experienced heightened involvement from FinTech companies, which are transforming conventional financial services and broadening capital access for people and small enterprises (KPMG, 2022). Mobile banking and digital payment solutions have surged in popularity, especially in metropolitan regions, promoting financial inclusion and stimulating economic growth.

Nigeria's financial industry has several problems, such as insufficient infrastructure, regulatory impediments, and diminished investor trust. The nation's dependence on oil exports has rendered its economy susceptible to foreign shocks, impacting market performance. Moreover, factors such as inflation, poor corporate governance, currency devaluation, and security apprehensions have exacerbated the financial environment.

Notwithstanding these issues, Nigeria's financial system possesses considerable potential for expansion, especially as the government persists in enacting changes designed to enhance the regulatory framework and encourage investment. The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) offers prospects for enhanced commerce and investment in the area, therefore establishing Nigeria as a significant participant in the African financial arena.

4.5 Comparative Analysis of Financial Market Dimensions and Performance

Comparing the financial market sizes and performances of New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria reveals numerous significant disparities. New York and London dominate in market capitalisation and the variety of financial products, although Tokyo is noted for its significant bond market. Conversely, Nigeria, albeit the largest financial market in Africa, is very diminutive in relation to its worldwide peers.

The financial markets in New York, London, and Tokyo have demonstrated resilience throughout global economic crises, bolstered by strong regulatory frameworks and technology innovations. Nigeria's financial market performance is more erratic, indicative of the wider economic concerns and structural issues confronting the nation.

The significance of New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria will endure as global financial markets expand. Every financial market has a distinct function within the global financial system, facilitating capital generation, investment prospects, and economic expansion. Comprehending the dynamics of these financial systems is essential for investors, policymakers, and stakeholders aiming to manoeuvre through the intricacies of the global financial environment.

5. Comparative Analysis of Financial Market Size Market Capitalization

Market capitalisation serves as a crucial metric for assessing the magnitude and vitality of financial markets. New York is the world leader, with the NYSE and NASDAQ having a

combined market capitalisation of \$40 trillion (New York Stock Exchange, 2023). This renders New York's financial markets considerably larger than those in London, Tokyo, and Nigeria. London's market capitalisation is roughly \$4 trillion, although Tokyo's is somewhat more at over \$6 trillion (Bank of England, 2023; Financial Conduct Authority, 2023). Nigeria's financial market, the largest in Africa, with a market capitalisation of just \$55 billion, underscoring the discrepancy between established and emerging markets (Nigeria Exchange Group, 2023).

Market Liquidity

Market liquidity denotes the ease with which assets may be transacted without influencing their price. New York and London possess some of the most liquid markets worldwide, characterised by elevated trade activity and substantial capital reserves. The NYSE and NASDAQ are recognised for their liquidity, characterised by substantial daily trading volumes of equities and bonds (New York Stock Exchange, 2023; OECD, 2023). The foreign exchange market in London is exceptionally liquid, with daily transactions amounting to trillions of dollars in currencies.

The financial markets in Tokyo exhibit considerable liquidity, especially in government bonds, which are extensively traded by local institutions. Nevertheless, Japan's conservative investing culture may diminish liquidity relative to Western markets. Nigeria's financial markets encounter considerable liquidity issues, characterised by low trading volumes and insufficient depth in financial products. This restricts investors' capacity to rapidly transact assets and may exacerbate market volatility.

Investor Demographic

New York and London possess varied and international investor demographics, characterised by substantial involvement from both institutional and individual investors. Foreign investors are crucial in both markets, drawn by the stability, transparency, and variety of financial products (Barker & Ricciardi, 2014). In New York, institutional investors, including pension funds, hedge funds, and insurance firms, constitute a significant share of market activity. London's investor demographic is also international, with substantial involvement from overseas investors in the city's bond and foreign exchange markets.

Tokyo's investor demographic is predominantly domestic, with a substantial share of government bonds retained by local financial entities, including banks and insurance firms (Tokyo Stock Exchange, 2023). Although international investors engage in Tokyo's financial markets, their activity is comparatively lower than that in New York and London. Nigeria's investment base is predominantly domestic, while international involvement is constrained by apprehensions over regulatory risks, currency devaluation, poor corporate governance, and market instability. Nigeria's developing middle class and rising financial inclusion offer prospects for broadening the investor pool.

Regulatory Frameworks

Regulation is essential for the operation of financial markets, guaranteeing transparency, safeguarding investors, and preserving stability. The financial markets of New York are regulated by a comprehensive system, with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) significantly supervising capital markets (Financial Times, 2023). Alongside the SEC, other regulatory entities, like the Federal Reserve and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), play a role in maintaining the stability of the financial system.

London possesses a robust regulatory structure, with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) supervising financial markets and institutions (International Monetary Fund, 2023). These regulators guarantee the equitable and transparent functioning of financial markets, whilst safeguarding consumers and preserving financial stability. The Financial Services Agency (FSA) regulates Tokyo's financial markets, supervising financial firms and ensuring market stability. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) is crucial in preserving financial stability via its monetary policy and operations in the bond market.

Nigeria's regulatory structure is underdeveloped relative to that of New York, London, and Tokyo. Nonetheless, notable advancements have occurred in recent years. Periodic policies on recapitalization, corporate governance policies bothering on tenors of directors, policies regulating the activities of FinTech companies are geared towards enhancing the openness and accountability of the system and increase investors' confidence in the system. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) are tasked with regulating the nation's financial markets and institutions (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2022). However, obstacles persist, especially regarding enforcement and openness. The regulatory landscape in Nigeria is still developing, necessitating more reforms to provide a stable and transparent financial system capable of attracting global investment.

6. Challenges and Opportunities

The financial systems of New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria have several obstacles that may impede their growth and stability. Each system also offers possibilities that may be utilised to improve financial market performance, bolster economic resilience, and promote sustainable growth. This section examines the principal difficulties and prospects for each financial system, offering insights into their future directions.

6.1 New York's Financial System

6.1.1 Challenges Confronting New York's Financial System

As to the New York Stock Exchange (2023) and Financial Times (2023), New York's financial system, albeit resilient, faces several problems that jeopardise its dominance in the global financial arena:

1. The regulatory landscape of New York is marked by a convoluted network of federal and state rules. Although these restrictions are crucial for preserving market integrity and safeguarding investors, they may also entail substantial compliance expenses for financial institutions. The complexity of laws may dissuade smaller enterprises from joining the market, therefore diminishing competition and innovation.

2. **Market Volatility:** The New York financial markets are prone to volatility influenced by global economic circumstances, geopolitical conflicts, and shifts in investor opinion. The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the rapidity with which markets may respond to unexpected events, leading to considerable volatility. Although volatility may provide prospects for traders, it presents hazards for long-term investors and can result in economic instability.

3. **Technology Disruption:** The fast progression of technology innovation, especially in FinTech, presents both a risk and an opportunity for New York's financial system. Although technology can improve efficiency and accessibility, it also presents new rivals that may challenge conventional financial institutions. Established banks must adjust to this evolving environment by investing in technology and creating creative solutions to maintain market share.

4. **Cybersecurity Threats:** The reliance of financial institutions on digital platforms has heightened the danger of cyberattacks. Prominent breaches can result in substantial financial losses, regulatory sanctions, and reputational harm. Implementing stringent cybersecurity protocols is essential for sustaining investor trust and safeguarding confidential financial data.

6.1.2 Prospects within New York's Financial Framework

As per the New York Stock Exchange (2023) and Financial Times (2023), notwithstanding these obstacles, New York's financial sector is strategically positioned to leverage many opportunities:

1. The emergence of FinTech provides conventional financial institutions with the potential to innovate and improve their service offerings. Collaborations between traditional banks and FinTech companies can result in the creation of innovative goods and services that address the changing requirements of customers, including customised financial planning tools and digital payment solutions.

2. **Worldwide Capital Flows:** New York's position as a premier financial hub draws significant capital investments from worldwide investors. The city can utilise its reputation and vast network of financial institutions to enable cross-border investments, promoting economic growth and generating new chances for local enterprises.

3. **Sustainable Finance:** The need for sustainable investment alternatives is rising as investors increasingly emphasise environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. Financial institutions in New York may leverage this trend by creating green bonds and other sustainable financial instruments that appeal to environmentally conscientious investors.

4. New York possesses a varied and highly proficient workforce, providing financial companies access to a talent pool that fosters innovation and creativity. Investing in people development and cultivating an inclusive workplace enables organisations to strengthen their competitive edge in a swiftly changing financial environment.

6.2 London's Financial System

6.2.1 Challenges Confronting London's Financial System

As per the Financial Conduct Authority (2023), Bank of England (2023), and London Stock Exchange Group (2023), London's financial sector faces several problems that might affect its worldwide prominence:

1. **Brexit Uncertainty:** The choice to depart the European Union has generated considerable uncertainty for London's financial markets. Divergence from EU regulations may impede access to European markets for financial enterprises domiciled in London, thereby affecting their competitiveness. The possible forfeiture of "passporting" privileges, which enable corporations to function between EU member states, generates apprehensions regarding the enduring sustainability of London as a financial centre.

2. **Global Rivalry:** London encounters escalating rivalry from burgeoning financial hubs, notably in Asia, including Singapore and Hong Kong. These cities have significantly invested in enhancing their financial markets and recruiting global talent, therefore challenging London's status as the preeminent global financial centre.

3. **Economic Disparities:** The concentration of London's financial sector in the City of London may intensify economic inequalities throughout the UK. Areas beyond London frequently encounter restricted access to financial services and investment prospects. The disproportionate allocation of resources might impede economic growth and development nationwide.

4. The regulatory landscape in London is complex, characterised by continual modifications due to Brexit and shifting market dynamics. Financial firms must traverse this environment, which may engender uncertainty and hinder strategic planning.

6.2.2 Prospects within London's Financial System

The Financial Conduct Authority (2023), Bank of England (2023), and London Stock Exchange Group (2023) indicate that London's financial system has considerable prospects for expansion and innovation.

1. The FinTech ecosystem in London has developed into a prominent worldwide hub, drawing a multitude of entrepreneurs and investors. The city's dynamic FinTech environment fosters collaboration between conventional financial institutions and creative technology companies, resulting in the creation of advanced financial products and services.
2. The financial system in London is distinguished by a diverse array of financial services, encompassing banking, insurance, asset management, and foreign currency trading. This versatility allows London to meet diverse customer requirements and adjust to evolving market situations.
3. **International commerce and Investment:** London's advantageous position and established networks promote international commerce and investment. The city can utilise its status as a worldwide financial hub to attract foreign investment, thereby stimulating economic growth and generating employment possibilities.
4. **Sustainable Finance Initiatives:** The growing emphasis on sustainability offers London's financial institutions the chance to spearhead the advancement of green finance and Environmental, Social and Governance-oriented investment products. By emphasising sustainability, companies may satisfy investor expectations while aiding global initiatives to combat climate change.

6.3 Tokyo's Financial System

6.3.1 Challenges Confronting Tokyo's Financial System

As per the Financial Services Agency (2023), Tokyo Stock Exchange (2023), and OECD (2023), Tokyo's financial system encounters certain problems that may affect its growth trajectory:

1. **Demographic Decline:** Japan's ageing populace and decreasing birth rate are substantial obstacles to economic expansion. A diminishing workforce may result in decreased consumer expenditure, affecting company profits and financial market outcomes.
2. The Bank of Japan's sustained low-interest-rate policy has posed problems for financial institutions by compressing banks' profit margins and limiting the efficacy of conventional monetary policy instruments. This climate may impede banks' capacity to lend and make profits, adversely affecting the overall stability of the financial system.
3. **Cultural Barriers:** Conventional corporate procedures and risk-averse mindsets in Japan may obstruct innovation and entrepreneurship. Financial institutions may exhibit sluggishness in embracing new technology and adjusting to evolving market needs, which might constrain their competitiveness internationally.

4. The regulatory system in Japan is intended to provide stability. Nevertheless, it may also be inflexible and sluggish in responding to evolving market conditions. This rigidity may hinder the development of innovative financial products and services.

6.3.2 Prospects within Tokyo's Financial Framework

According to the Financial Services Agency (2023), Tokyo Stock Exchange (2023), and OECD (2023), notwithstanding these obstacles, Tokyo's financial system offers many prospects for expansion and advancement:

1. **Technology Innovations:** Japan is known for its technology breakthroughs, and the financial industry may leverage innovations in artificial intelligence, blockchain, and big data to enhance services and optimise operating efficiency. By embracing these technologies, Tokyo can enhance its competitive standing in the global financial arena.
2. **Enhancing Global Influence:** With Asia's economic expansion, Tokyo has the potential to reinforce its position as a financial hub in the area. Partnerships with other Asian financial markets can augment Tokyo's international presence and draw foreign investment.
3. The Japanese government has implemented corporate governance changes to enhance openness and accountability in corporations. These changes can bolster investor confidence and encourage international investment, promoting growth in the financial industry.
4. **Financial Inclusion Initiatives:** Japan is increasingly prioritising financial inclusion, especially for marginalised communities. By creating customised financial goods and services, financial institutions may access new market niches and improve overall market engagement.

6.4 Nigeria's Financial System

6.4.1 Challenges Confronting Nigeria's Financial System

The Central Bank of Nigeria (2022) identifies several difficulties within Nigeria's financial system that impede its potential. They include:

1. Nigeria's economy is susceptible to variations in global oil prices due to its significant dependence on oil exports. This volatility can adversely affect government income, diminish investor trust, and induce instability in financial markets.
2. The regulatory structure in Nigeria is frequently regarded as uneven and opaque. Regulatory obstacles can hinder the expansion of financial institutions and dissuade foreign investment, constraining the market's potential.
3. **Infrastructure Deficiencies:** Insufficient infrastructure, characterised by restricted access to dependable energy and internet connectivity, presents considerable obstacles for financial institutions functioning in Nigeria. These shortcomings can impede the advancement of digital financial services and diminish access to financial markets for the general populace.

4. **Security Issues:** Persistent security difficulties, especially in the north and secessionist agitations in the south, might hinder economic operations and discourage investment. The threat of violence and instability presents considerable hurdles for the banking sector.

6.4.2 Prospects in Nigeria's Financial System

The Central Bank of Nigeria (2022) asserts that, notwithstanding these issues, Nigeria's financial sector has several growth potentials.

1. Nigeria has established itself as a pioneer in the African FinTech sector, with a multitude of firms creating new financial solutions. The expansion of mobile banking and digital payment systems offers prospects for financial inclusion and enhanced access to financial services.
2. Nigeria's youthful demographic presents a substantial possibility for economic expansion. By addressing the financial requirements of young consumers, financial institutions may access a substantial and active market area.
3. **Regional Integration:** Initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) provide Nigeria possibilities to strengthen its regional economic integration. Enhanced trade and investment throughout the continent can stimulate economic growth and generate new prospects for financial institutions.
4. The Nigerian government acknowledges the necessity for financial sector changes and is endeavouring to enhance the regulatory framework. Continued initiatives to fortify governance, augment transparency, and foster competition can facilitate a more resilient financial sector.

7.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1 Conclusion

The financial systems of New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria exhibit distinct traits influenced by their historical, economic, and regulatory environments. New York and London are prominent worldwide financial centres, with advanced financial markets with substantial market capitalisations, a variety of financial products, and strong regulatory frameworks. These cities have successfully utilised technology breakthroughs to improve market efficiency, foster innovation, and draw foreign investment, reinforcing their status as leaders in the global financial arena.

Tokyo's financial system, despite its considerable size and breadth, has issues associated with demographic changes and economic stagnation. Nonetheless, its sophisticated technical integration and robust bond market consistently establish Tokyo as a pivotal entity in Asia's financial landscape. Nigeria, albeit the largest financial market in Africa, contends with volatility and structural challenges that impede its development potential. Nonetheless, continuous changes and the emergence of FinTech technologies provide prospects for enhancement and advancement within Nigeria's financial sector.

The comparative examination of various financial systems demonstrates the interdependence of global markets and the necessity of responding to evolving economic situations. As these financial centres adapt to the complexity of a changing global environment, their functions will continue to be essential in promoting capital creation, enabling investment, and stimulating economic growth. This evaluation highlights the imperative for policymakers and stakeholders to cultivate a conducive climate that stimulates innovation, improves regulatory frameworks, and ensures stability in their financial markets.

7.2 Recommendations

To bolster the stability and expansion of financial markets in New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria, the below proposals are put forth:

1. Financial regulators across all four markets must persist in adapting and fortifying regulatory frameworks to mitigate growing risks, especially with technology and cryptocurrencies. Lucid and transparent laws will enhance investor trust and market stability.
2. Nigeria should prioritise steps to enhance financial inclusion for its unbanked populace. Partnerships between conventional banking institutions and fintech firms can enhance access to vital financial services thereby promoting economic expansion.
3. Financial institutions in New York, London, Tokyo, and Nigeria ought to cultivate collaborations with fintech businesses and start-ups to advance innovation and improve service delivery. Collaborations can propel technical progress while ensuring adherence to regulations.
4. Enhancing financial literacy and awareness among individual investors is essential in all markets. Educational activities must concentrate on providing individuals with the knowledge necessary for making informed investment decisions, thereby cultivating a more resilient investment culture especially in the retail space.
5. Policymakers across all markets must proactively participate in diplomatic and trade discussions to alleviate geopolitical concerns that may affect financial markets. Fostering transparent communication and cooperation with foreign nations will be crucial in addressing uncertainty.
6. Financial organisations have to allocate resources towards data analytics and artificial intelligence to augment decision-making processes and refine risk management. Utilising technology can yield enhanced understanding of market movements and investor behaviour.
7. Financial markets must prioritise sustainable financing projects to tackle environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. This will help in creating frameworks that encourage ethical investment practices that can draw socially conscious investors and bolster market confidence.

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