The issue of gender inequality

In 1993, the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women provided a framework for action on the pandemic.

But more than 20 years later, 1 in 3 women still experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner.

All developing regions have or have almost achieved gender parity in primary education.

But the gender disparity widens at the secondary and tertiary school levels in many countries.

The adult literacy rate has risen to 86% from 76% in 1990.

Source: UN Women
The issue of gender inequality

The percentage of women in parliament has doubled in the last 20 years. But this only translates into around 23% of women in parliament today.

4. Quality Education

24 women CEOs lead Fortune 500 companies today, compared to only 1 in 1998.

5. Gender Equality

But this is only 5% of all CEOs on the list.

10. Reduced Inequalities

Around 49% of the world's working age women are in the labour force, compared to over 75% of working age men.

And globally, women earn 23% less than men.
The importance of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

We the Peoples of the United Nations Determined “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights...in the equal rights of men and women...”

Better educated women experience less maternal and child deaths and can provide better nutrition to their children

Reducing the gender gap may bring as much as $12 trillion to the global GDP by 2025

Women’s empowerment is central to realizing women’s rights, reducing risks of violence, discrimination and other types of abuse

Source: McKinsey & Company
Gender (in)equality in STEM

Women represent only around **30 percent** of the STEM researchers worldwide.

Historically, over 560 people have travelled to space but only **11 percent** were women.

In 2016, women represented **only 20 percent** of space industry workforce which is on par with statistics from 30 years ago.

Source: UNESCO
The importance of gender equality in STEM

Space tends to offer high-earning jobs in a fast-growing sector, providing women with more financial freedom and significant contribution to household income.

STEM fields are a key to dealing with the global challenges. It is imperative that women can take advantage of the benefits of space and are part of the solution.

90 percent of future jobs will require STEM related skills. Women must possess skills and education to be able to be competitive in the future employment market.

Studies in both private and public sectors have shown that a diversity of skills and perspectives leads to greater innovation and success.
Vision

Bringing the benefits of space to humankind.

Mission Statement

Promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to achieve sustainable development goals.

Image credit: Digital Globe/Maxar Technologies
UNOOSA: supporting Member States

**CAPACITY BUILDER:** UNOOSA provides access to cutting edge space-data and information and builds capacity to use such data to accelerate sustainable development.

**CONVENER:** UNOOSA facilitates Member States in the development of new space policy.

**GATEWAY:** UNOOSA - the sole UN agency dedicated to space affairs - coordinates UN activities using space-related technology to support sustainable development.
Space and SDGs

All countries and all stakeholders act in **collaborative partnership** to implement the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development.

**UNOOSA** is currently developing new approaches to address the targets enshrined in the SDGs.

**One joint vision** has to be employed to protect space as a limited resource for the benefit of humankind.
UNOOSA’s programmes and initiatives are designed to provide capacity-building, education, research and development support and technical advisory services to countries. These have helped to reduce the capabilities gap between spacefaring, and emerging/non-spacefaring nations.

“By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship”

UNOOSA and SGAC signed an MoU to deliver a global ‘Space for Youth’ Competition aimed at engaging youth in the discussion of how space science and technology can be used to power SDGs.
UNOOSA is working on a dedicated Space for Women Project. Its objectives are to strengthen and deliver targeted capacity-building and technical advisory activities, and promote efforts to encourage women and girls' involvement in STEM education.

"Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women."
It is disappointing that, in the 21st century, and in fields like the space sector, which is known for breaking boundaries, we are still not making the most of what women have to contribute.

Simonetta Di Pippo
International Gender Champions, Vienna, June 2017
Making ‘Space for Women’ a reality?

October 2017, New York
UNOOSA and UN Women co-hosted a three-day Space for Women Expert Meeting.

‘Space for Women’ is really a gender mainstreaming project where we will like to work with Member States; not only for STEM education but also to help young girls when they graduate to then find their place in their own society without being obliged to leave their own country

- Simonetta Di Pippo, UN News, 4 October 2017
Space for Women Project

What can women do for space?

What more can space do for women?

How to attract more women to space?

What do women need from space?
Let’s make space work for the development of women

Let’s make space in the aerospace industry and STEM fields for women

Let’s make the Space for Women project together
It always seems impossible… until it’s done.

Nelson Mandela
THANK YOU