

RUN BEFORE YOU WALK:

Utilising the space sector to change the financial narrative for African women.

UN Expert Meeting on Space for Women, Dubai
21-22nd October, 2021

Presented by: Alma Okpalefe
Company Secretary
NIGCOMSAT Ltd

Contents

- **Satellite
Broadband**
- **Careers in Space**
- **Space
Entrepreneurship**

The financial narrative

Marginalisation



Drivers and Backbone of the
African Economy









Why changing the narrative is important:

- Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Women's Report 2017- Africa leads the world in the number of women starting businesses- Ghana, Zambia and Nigeria, women outnumber men.
- Women typically reinvest up to 90% of their income in education, health and nutrition

Space-based technology for financial inclusion



- Improving the accessibility of financial services in rural and underserved areas.
- Satellite Broadband in rural areas
- Nigerian National Broadband Plan 2020–2025
- Role of NigComSat-1R.
 - integrating satellite backhaul into mobile network deployment strategies in rural and underserved areas
 - Satellite enabled mobile and Wifi broadband services provides access to social and economic advantages.
 - Partnership of satellite operators, governments, mobile operators and private enterprises to improve connectivity

2019	 Internet access at home	 Individuals using the Internet	 Women	 Men
	 14.3%	 28.6%	20.2%	37.1%
	 57.4%	 51.4%	48.3%	55.2%

What factors influence career choice for women in Africa?

- Financial Remuneration
- Professional Prestige
- Job accessibility
- Job Security
- Personal interest
- Professional development opportunities
- Influence of family/ Societal expectations
- Teachers and Educators

Collectivist cultural orientation– honor family & societal expectations, whilst also seeking prestige.

African women in the space sector

Who?

- Abimbola Alale- CEO
- Margaret Ikape – Astrophysicist
- Jessie Ndaba- Space Entrepreneur
- Timiebi Aganaba- Jeanty- Lawyer
- Nana Ama Klutse Browne- Space Scientist/Lecturer

Where?

- At what level are women operating within the space sector?
- Statistics of women on Board-Gender Diversity Index 2020- Women now hold more than 20% of the Board seats of Fortune 1000 companies.
- **OECD Analytical Database on Individual Multinationals and their Affiliates (ADIMA)**- women make up only 16% of board members in the top 500 MNEs (by market capital), with numbers as low as 12% in the technology sector.
- Nigeria- 21%
- NIGCOMSAT- 50%



African woman is innately entrepreneurial: 1 in 4 women starts or manages a business.

A female entrepreneur is a woman who has initiated a business, is actively involved in running it, and her ownership is a minimum of 50% of the enterprise and has been in operation for one year or longer.

Measurements for successful female entrepreneurship:

- Easy access to funding for the expansion of their business
- Easy access to customers, suppliers and partners
- Work-life balance
- Increased literacy and education skills
- Independence and ability to earn income
- Global presence

African space-tech sector is one of the fastest growing markets in the world.

- Massive investment opportunity
- The African Union has identified earth observation as a key resource to be leveraged in achieving Africa's development goals.

Way forward:

- open innovation challenge to grow the sector
- developing the value chain around existing business.

NIGCOMSAT Initiatives

- **ActinSpace 2020**
- **VSAT installation training 2021**
 - Ratio of men to women- Ekiti State- 43- 7, Kebbi State 46-5, Abia State 37-13



Conclusion



'Sometimes I am asked: why do you (Nigeria) want to run before you learn to walk?'

My commonsense reply is simple: man is endowed, irrespective of where he is located, with the language, curiosity and imagination, to participate at every level in science and technology; indeed he has the capacity to run, if he so desires before he is perceived to have learned to walk.'

***Prof. Turner Isoun
Former Minister of Science & Technology
Federal Republic of Nigeria***

A satellite with large solar panels is shown in orbit above the Earth's cloud-covered surface. The text "Thank You" is centered over the satellite.

Thank You