



GRAÇA MACHEL TRUST

# FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

The Graça Machel Trust's SADC Regional  
Convening on Women's Financial  
Inclusion in the Digital Economy.



**Date:** Thursday, 14 September 2023

**Programme Time:** 09:00 – 12:10 (SAST)

NEW FACES NEW VOICES  
WOMEN IN FINANCE  
NETWORK

NETWORK OF  
AFRICAN BUSINESS WOMEN  
WOMEN IN BUSINESS  
NETWORK

NETWORK OF  
AFRICAN WOMEN IN AGRIBUSINESS  
WOMEN IN AGRIBUSINESS  
NETWORK

WOMEN IN MEDIA  
NETWORK

## SADC Regional Convening on Women's Financial Inclusion in the Digital Economy Digital Finance: A Panacea for Women's Financial Inclusion?

**Welcome and Opening Remarks | Webinar ZOOM Room**

**8:45-09:00** Registration

**09:00-09:05** **Welcome Message:** Graça Machel Trust

**09:05-09:20** **Keynote Address |** Mrs. Graça Machel, Founder of Graça Machel Trust

**09:20-09:30** **ELG Statement |** Expert Leader Group Representative

**09:30-09:40** **Recommendations of GMT NFNV Networks SADC Policy Brief 2022 and Zimbabwe Gender Norms, Financial Inclusion Policy Brief 2023 |** Gladys Kanyong, NFNV Zimbabwe

**Session 1 |** Understanding the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion in SADC

**09:40-10:05** **Moderator:** Gladys Kanyongo –NFNV Zimbabwe

**Panelist:** Ms Lehlè Baldè, Women's Digital Financial Inclusion Advocacy Hub

**Panelist:** Mr. Blessing Mautsa, Finmark Trust

**10:05-10:15** Interactive Question and Answer Session

**10:15 -10:25** Break

**Session 2 |** Enabling Regulatory Environment in SADC

**10:25-10:50**

**Moderator:** Emma Kawawa, NFNV Tanzania

**Panelist:** DG Rekha Mhango, Bank of Zambia

**Panelist:** Mr. Simbarashe Mashonganyika, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

**10:50-11:00** Interactive Question and Answer Session

**Session 3 |** Innovations in Digital Finance

**11:00-11:25**

**Moderator:** Ms. Rose Ronoh, FinEquity

**Panelist:** Djeinaba Kane, AfricaNenda

**Panelist:** Sophie Mills, FSD Network

**Panelist:** Munyaradzi Gerald Nyakwawa, Moneymart Finance-Zimbabwe

**Session 4 |** Showcasing GMT Women's Financial Inclusion and Empowerment Experience

**11:35-12:00**

**Moderator:** Maureen Sumbwe, NABW Zambia

**Panelist:** Ms. Andia Chikava Graca Machel Trust, Afrishela

**Panelist:** Women Entrepreneurs Accessing Finance

**Closing Remarks**

**12:00-12:10**

**Key Takeaways and calls to action |** Shiphrah Chisha, Director of Programmes, Graça Machel Trust

**OUR SPEAKERS**



Theo Sowa



H.E Graça Machel



Juliet Kimotho



DG Charity Dhliwayo



Gladys Kanyongo



Lehlé Baldé



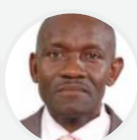
Blessing Mautsa



Emma Kawawa



DG Rekha Mhango



Simbarashe Mashonganyika



Rose Ronoh



Djeinaba Kane



Sophie Mills



Munyaradzi Gerald Nyakwawa



Maureen Sumbwe



Andia Chakava



Shiphrah Chisha

## Welcome Message



### **Theo Sowa, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Graça Machel Trust**

Theo Sowa is the Former Chief Executive Officer of the African Women's Development Fund. She has extensive experience as an independent advisor on a wide range of international issues with a focus on social development issues. Her work has covered advocacy, service, delivery, evaluation, facilitation, policy, and organizational development with a range of international and intergovernmental organizations and grant-making foundations, including UNICEF, Stephen Lewis Foundation, the African Union, DIFD and UNDP, amongst others.



### **H.E Graça Machel, Founder, Graça Machel Trust**

Graça Machel is an African stateswoman whose decades-long professional and public life is rooted in a deep-sighted conviction of rejecting injustice. Mrs. Machel works through several regional and international development bodies to accelerate social transformation, ranging from gender equality, and governance to children's rights. She is a founding member and Deputy Chair of The Elders, and a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group. She founded the Graça Machel Trust works with women across 18 African countries and founded the Foundation for Community Development, based in Mozambique, which focuses on social issues.



### **DG Dhlwayo is the former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.**

Dr. Dhlwayo is the former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. She has been recognized as a distinguished leader in the banking sector and financial inclusion. She has been featured in local and regional publications for her career achievements as the first female Deputy Governor and Acting Governor in Zimbabwe. She brings a wealth of 36+ years of professional experience in leadership and management, policy and strategy, central banking operations, financial institutions, and markets, liaison with the Government and private sector, regulation and prudential supervision, and financial inclusion issues. As Deputy Governor, she developed the licensing and prudential operating standards to guide the banking sector on good corporate governance, risk management, market discipline, capital adequacy, liquidity management, and sound asset management standards. Dr Dhlwayo led the development of the Troubled Banks Resolution Policy and legislation which resulted in the amalgamation of troubled banks into a commercial bank called ZABG.

## Director of Ceremony



### **Juliet Kimotho, Advocacy Manager, Graça Machel Trust**

Juliet Kimotho is an advocacy, policy engagement, and program management expert with over eleven years of experience in designing, managing and implementing Gender in Education, Sexual Reproductive Health, women and girls' economic empowerment, and Gender Based Violence advocacy programs in over 30 countries in Africa. She is also a founding member and mentor of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) youth network and Global NOREC 2016 fellow. She is a United Nations-certified Gender-Responsive Education Sector Planning (GRESPE) workshop facilitator and Gender Responsive Pedagogy (GRP) trainer and has vast experience working in the development sector.

## Understanding the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion in SADC

### Recommendations of GMT NFNV Networks SADC Policy Brief 2022 and Zimbabwe Gender Norms, Financial Inclusion Policy Brief 2023, Gladys Kanyongo, NFNV Zimbabwe



Gladys Kanyongo has finance and development sector experience spanning over 25 years. Gladys currently serves as a board member of Stimulus Africa and Hand-in-Hand, Zimbabwe, and project coordinator for New Faces, New Voices Zimbabwe. She has worked for several financial institutions including, Small and Medium Development Corporation (SMEDCO) where she held the position of Chief Executive Officer from 2012 to 2019. As an independent consultant, she handles projects in development finance including economic development, financial inclusion, access to finance for SMEs, women and youth, value-chain finance and policy analysis on the continent. Gladys holds an MPhil in Development Finance and BCom (Banking) and post-grad certificates in Private Sector Development, Agricultural and Rural Finance.

### Panelist: Lehlé Baldé, Women's Digital Financial Inclusion Advocacy Hub



Lehlé Baldé is Program Manager at the Women's Digital Financial Inclusion Advocacy Hub. Prior to joining WWB, Lehlé was an award-winning editor and media professional. She is an International Monetary Fund Youth Fellow and an Acumen fellow. She is a bilingual professional moderator having led over 100 events. She hosted and produced Africa's first radio program on financial inclusion and has worked in the public and private sectors in Canada, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, and Cameroun practicing journalism, new media strategy, and communications for development. Lehlé has used media to advocate for financial inclusion and literacy and impact investing for young Africans. Lehlé won the Future Award for intrapreneurship in 2020 and the Lords Achievers Award for media.

### Panelist: Blessing Mautsa, Finmark Trust, Zimbabwe



Blessing Mautsa is a financial inclusion specialist and currently serves as the Zimbabwe Country Coordinator for FinMark Trust. Prior to joining FinMark Trust, he worked as Operations Manager at Africa Corporate Advisors, a trade, investment, and development consulting company based in Zimbabwe. Blessing has worked on many FinMark-led projects in Zimbabwe including the FinScope Surveys since 2014, Financial Inclusion Data Training and Capacity Building of the bank and non-bank regulators among others. Blessing is also an investment advocate who also worked on numerous SADC investment assignments among other achievements.

## BIOS

### Enabling Regulatory Environment in SADC

#### Moderator: Emma Kawawa, NFNV Tanzania



Mrs. Emma Kawawa is a visionary leader and Emma Kawawa is the Chairperson of New Faces, New Voices Tanzania (GMT's Women in Finance). She is the Founder and CEO, of Tanzania Women CEOs Roundtable, and knows the transformative power that lies within women's potential. With an expert grasp on transformational leadership, Mrs. Kawawa passionately advocates for women's collective power, trust, and togetherness. She envisions a future where prominent women in business, selected leaders, philanthropists, academics, civil societies, and thought leaders unite to pave the way for women's economic advancements and promote social change She is a member of East African Women in Business Platform and Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce. She has extensive experience in business development for the past 15 years. She has worked in the public and private sectors in different capacities and in the Tanzania Government as Board Director of Tanzania Investment Centre.

#### Panelist: DG Rekha Mhango, Bank of Zambia



DG Mhango is THE Deputy Governor-Administration, Bank of Zambia. She is a seasoned Business leader; a human resource practitioner having served in executive capacities at Zambia Telecommunications Company Limited and Ecobank Zambia. She also has served in the Human Resource Directorate as Director at the central bank for close to 7 years. She is passionate about digital financial inclusion, cross border trade, inclusive digital economy, Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and at several forums, driven and engaged in impact-driven conversations with a range of key stakeholders.

#### Panelist: Simbarashe Mashonganyika, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe



Mr. Simbarashe Mashonganyika has over 22 years of experience in Zimbabwe's financial sector, most of which were with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, where he is a Chief Bank Examiner. He has a strong capacity in licensing, regulation, and supervision of asset management companies, banking, and microfinance institutions, to ensure that they effectively play their key role in driving the country's financial inclusion agenda. He currently co-chairs the Microfinance Thematic Working Group for the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy II. Mr. Mashonganyika is also an expert in public finance management. He has participated in the provision of capacity building to Budget & Finance, and Public Accounts Parliamentary Committees of Parliaments in Zambia, Botswana, Angola, and Zimbabwe. He is currently a member of the Microfinance and; Financial Cooperatives subcommittee of the Committee of Insurance, Securities and; Non-Banking Financial Authorities (CISNA) under the auspices of SADC.

## Innovations in Digital Finance

### Moderator: Rose Ronoh, FinEquity



Ms. Rose Ronoh is a trade economist with over twenty years of work experience drawn from public, private, and development sectors in Africa. She is the FinEquity Africa Facilitator. She has been involved in negotiation, design, and implementation of trade and gender equality initiatives supporting development partners such as UNECA, CBI Netherlands, GIZ, Expertise France, and USAID amongst many others. Rose is the founder of TradeSmart Consult Ltd a development consultancy firm based in Nairobi, Kenya providing innovative trade solutions to the private sector, government, and development partners in Africa in the area of women's economic empowerment and international trade. (She is hired through TradeSmart Consult for her role with FinEquity). Rose is a Business Management Ph.D. Candidate at Moi University.

### Panelist: Djeinaba Kane, AfricaNenda



Djeinaba Kane is the Lead, Advocacy, and Partner at AfricaNenda, an independent African-led organization created to accelerate the growth of instant and inclusive payment systems (IIPS) that will benefit all Africans, including the poorest and currently financially excluded. With extensive experience in both public and private organizations, Djeinaba focuses on advocating for efficient and affordable payment platforms, developing and managing strategic partnerships, and conducting/supporting capacity-building training. She is currently leading the Africa Nenda program on Gender Intentionality in IIPS. Prior to joining AfricaNenda in 2022, Ms. Kane worked for 6 years at the African Union Commission within the Department of Economic Affairs (current Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Mining- ETTIM). She worked on advocating different programs of the Department with AU Member States and partners. On behalf of DEA, Djeinaba led the contribution to the Digital Financial Services (DFS) Strategy within the overall Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020- 2030) led by the African Union Commission.

### Panelist: Sophie Mills, FSD Network



Dr Sophie Mills leads the FSD Network's Collaborative Programme in Gender, where she works with the ten FSDs to mainstream gender into their operations and support their capacity to deliver systemic gender impacts. She has over fifteen years' of experience in inclusive finance and gender in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Prior to joining the FSD Network, Sophie worked on housing microfinance, gender, and inclusive finance with a number of non-profit organisations. She holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and a bachelor's degree from the University of Wales.



**Panelist: Munyaradzi Gerald Nyakwawa, MoneyMart Finance, Zimbabwe**

Munyaradzi heads the commercial services wing, within which lies the FinTech arm of MoneyMart Finance. As a unit leader, he has led the business to over 50% sales growth in the first six months of joining the organization. Prior to joining MoneyMart, Munyaradzi worked with COMESA Business Council (CBC) as a consultant and produced “The Business Case for a Regional Digital Payments Policy for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises MSMEs in COMESA” – A Digital Financial Inclusion Plan for MSMEs. This is a study that is leading to the development of an Instant and Inclusive Payment System for MSMEs in the COMESA region. He is the current Chief Association Executive of the Digital Finance Practitioners Association of Zimbabwe and a Digital Finance lecturer with National University of Science and Technology – ZAMFI program and has won many awards in the sector due to his passion for financial literacy and sustainable financial inclusion.

## Showcasing GMT Women’s Financial Inclusion and Empowerment Experience



**PModerator: Maureen Sumbwe, NABW Zambia**

Maureen Sumbwe has a background in Marketing. She is a development practitioner with a bias towards women’s entrepreneurship development trade facilitation. She is the Chief Executive Officer of the Zambia Federation of Associations of Women in Business and the current chairperson of the COMESA Federation of National Associations of Women in Business. She has served on various boards including, Plant Agrichem Services Ltd, the Network of WEDGE Trainers in Zambia, the UNDP /MCTI Programme on SME development, and the Tourism Board of Zambia. Maureen is a member of the Graca Machel Trust Networks’ steering committee.



**Panelist: Andia Chakava, Graca Machel Trust Afrishela**

Andia Chakava has over 20 years of experience in fund management and over 12 years of driving women’s economic empowerment. Andia has established herself as a global thought leader in gender lens investing and is one of the first female fund managers in the African region and has made considerable contributions towards promoting the social and economic inclusion of women in Africa through the development and structuring of fit for purpose funds having set up two fund management companies in East Africa. In her role as the Investment Director at the Graca Machel Trust, she co-leads the development of a \$30 million pan-African gender lens investment vehicle called “Afrishela” to invest in missing middle enterprises in East and Southern Africa. She is the current chair of the investment advisory council for Canada’s Equality Fund and an independent director of 2X Global. In Kenya, she sits on the board of East African Educational Publishers and Sterling Investment Bank. She has over 16 years of senior leadership experience working comfortably across interdisciplinary and multi-cultural teams. She brings a combination of regional and international best practices to provide both financial and non-financial support to women in business.

### **Closing Remarks: Shiphrah Chisha, Director Of Programmes, Graça Machel Trust**



Shiphra Chisha is the Director of programmes for Graça Machel Trust and the President and Co-Founder of the African Women in Business, a pan-African organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs across industries, with chapters across SADC, a network that provides women with access to trade and investments in eight priority sectors and is currently looking at how women entrepreneurs will benefit from implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area. She is a Development Expert and a member of the SADC Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade Steering Committee and Working Group, as well as a Steering Committee Member of the Trade Forward Southern Africa (TFSA). Advisory Board Member of the University of South African Graduate School of Business Leadership, Advisory Board Member of African Women in Power and Energy, and Pan-African Tech Foundation.