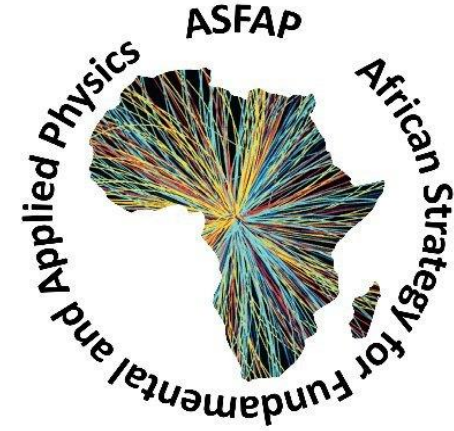




Women in Physics Forum



Conveners:

Dr. Marie Chantal CYULINYANA (Rwanda)

Dr. Iroka Chidinma Joy (Nigeria)

Dr. Dephney Mathebula (South Africa)



Speaker: Dr. Iroka Chidinma Joy

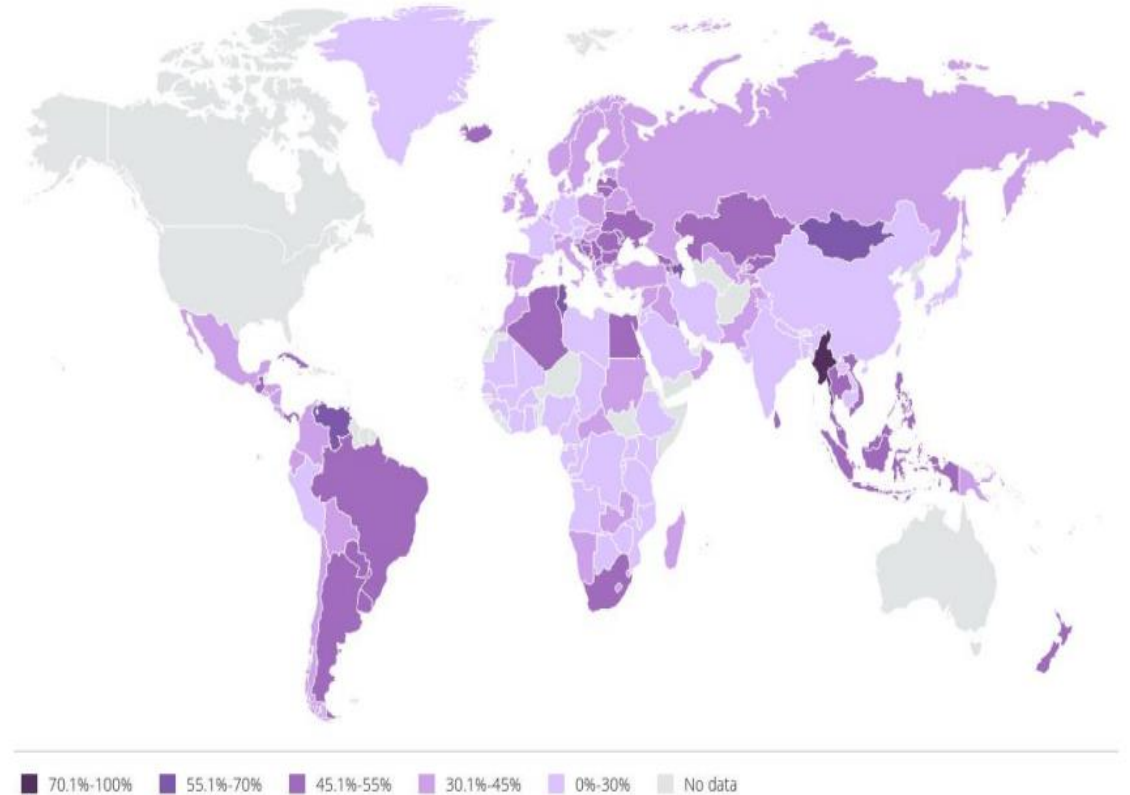
ASFAP Community Town Hall Meeting, 12-15 July 2021

Background and Female scientists

Women as a share of total researchers, 2017 or latest year available

Notes: Data in this map are based on headcounts (HC), except for Congo, India and Israel which are based on full-time equivalents (FTE). Data for China are based on total R&D personnel instead of researchers. Data for Brazil are based on estimations.

Source: UNESCO
Institute for Statistics,
June 2019.



UNESCO report, 2019

Female scientists have a great role to play in the development of Africa but unfortunately, they don't have a good representation to affect changes

Why few women in physics Africa?

- ❑ Gender inequality is an existential threat to career progression for women, world over.
- ❑ Cultural, religious and sometimes sociological factors have contributed to this.
- ❑ In Africa, cultural practices preclude that women should only be seen but not be heard
- ❑ This is the reason why women are never considered as leaders of clans or towns in most African societies.
- ❑ Religious practices and beliefs have also hindered women career growth especially in sciences
- ❑ In the workplace, women are often considered inferior to men because they are considered as less physically and mentally endowed
- ❑ Most women also juggle career growth with raising children
- ❑ This hindered them from being able to put in long hours required in most professions

Challenges

- The challenges faced by women scientists start from the elementary schools and colleges
- These were briefly mentioned in the introduction, example – religion, social, economical, political practices and backgrounds
- The teachers teaching the courses
- The environment etc.
- The isolation that many women in physics suffer, and no where did this seem more severe than in African countries..

Purpose of Women in Physics forum

Enhancing the participation of women in physics,
how do we treat gender gaps in science/
Physics? What is the future of women in Physics?

Producing a strategy to answer the above
questions.

Strategy : Women in Physics Forum

- To create allies between other working groups in ASFAP, Africa and globally
- To establish a system to encourage more girls to study physics and physical science
- To promote the recognition of the scientific achievements of senior women physicists within Africa and the international community
- To increase the scientific productivity and efficiency of women physicists
- To sit and discuss how to bring everyone to gather on the consensus of inclusivity in Physics
- Data Collection , regular survey
- To emphasize on the role played by men in this (i.e hear women voice, ...)
- To use the letters of interests from the broad community and get different ideas
- Produce a White paper from letter of interest ideas
- To strengthen research efforts and training opportunities of young women physicists

Solution to gender gap in STEM and Physics in particular

- The campaign should start from primary schools
- The level of responsibility at the place of work should be investigated
- There should be no disparities in salaries
- They should be given opportunities in the decision-making positions
- Provision for support to hold conferences to exhibit their research and scientific projects

Solution to gender gap in STEM and Physics in particular

- Awareness
- Making the science course interesting
- Evaluation and monitoring
- Guidance councilors and mentorship
- Funding of science projects for women
- Removing age limit for women in science

Spasibo Gracías شكر ا Obrigado Spasibo Dank U
Grazie Ευχαριστώ Danke
Dziękuję Ευχαριστώ
Danke Merci
Ngiyabonga Dank U
Diolch Thank You
Tack Ngiyabonga
Merci Dank U
Terima Kasih Diolch
Grazie Tack
Danke Ευχαριστώ
Diolch