

Sylvia Chahonyo, GM-MIS Commercial and South Africa Country Manager, Speaks at Global Summit on Financial Inclusion for Women

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, October 24, 2017 — Sylvia Chahonyo, GM-MIS Commercial and South Africa country manager, recently participated in the Making Finance Work for Women Summit organized by Women's World Banking (WWB), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

WWB is a global NGO devoted to increasing access for low-income women to the financial tools and resources they need to build security and prosperity for themselves and their families. "The best way to think about Women's World Banking is as a sort of consulting firm with a very strong agenda," said Mary Ellen Iskenderian, President and CEO of WWB.

The two-day program featured leading international experts on women's economic empowerment.

Sylvia's presentation, 'Key Messages from Moody's Research' highlighted the impact that access to financial services has on low income women in East Africa. She spoke about Moody's approach to Diversity and Inclusion and the work done by some of Moody's customers in this area, e.g., Equity Bank in Kenya and Microfinance Bank Plc in Tanzania.

"A financially empowered woman not only supports her business and her family, she is also an asset to the community and to the global economy. This has a ripple effect on the financial services industry and on all industries that capitalize on serving the women's market. I look forward to bringing the lessons from this Summit back to my work at Moody's," said Sylvia.

Sylvia joined 300 executives from the financial services, consumer products and technology industries as well as investors, philanthropists and government officials from more than 30 countries. The summit examined the best practices in researching, designing and delivering solutions to low-income and under-represented women around the world.



"The remarkable range of participants joining us—from behavioral scientists to FinTech disruptors—is a testament to the growing realization that women are the most dynamic market segment in the world," said Ms. Iskenderian. "Low-income women represent a tremendous market opportunity, and delivering financial services to these women is an undeniable imperative for economic growth in the emerging markets."

In closing remarks, Katarina Rangnitt, Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania, underscored Ms. Iskenderian's point. "Inclusion of women is about the three 'R's: equal rights, equal resources and equal representation," she said.

The [Making Finance Work for Women Summit](#) agenda included interactive sessions on digital financial services, human-centred design, consumer segmentation, inclusive policy and regulation, gender lens impact investing, and diversity and inclusion in corporate leadership.