

UNOOSA

Women, gender balance and diversity

ESPI-ESA
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UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs




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.

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL, 2016

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

But women account for **two-thirds of the world's illiterate.**

ADULT LITERACY RATE, 2016:

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 86% | 69% | 53% |
| WORLD | MALE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES | FEMALE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES |



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.



24 women CEOs

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



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



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



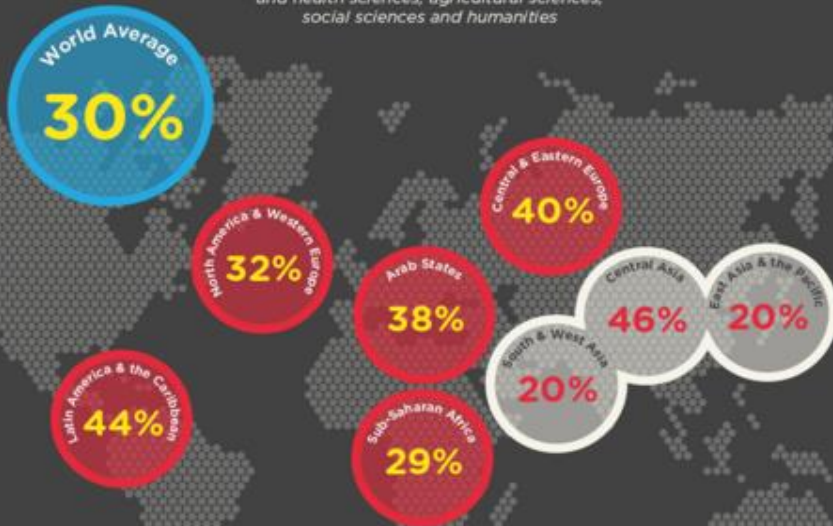


Gender (in)equality in STEM



Just 1/5 countries have achieved gender parity, meaning **45% to 55%** of researchers are **women**

Percentage of women researchers in natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities



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.



Women in Science



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



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.



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**.

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





United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Vision

Bringing the benefits of space to humankind.

Mission Statement

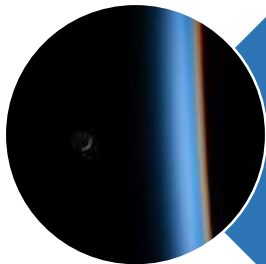
Promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to achieve sustainable development goals.



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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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.**



Space for SDGs – Goal 4

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




Space for SDGs – Goal 5



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.

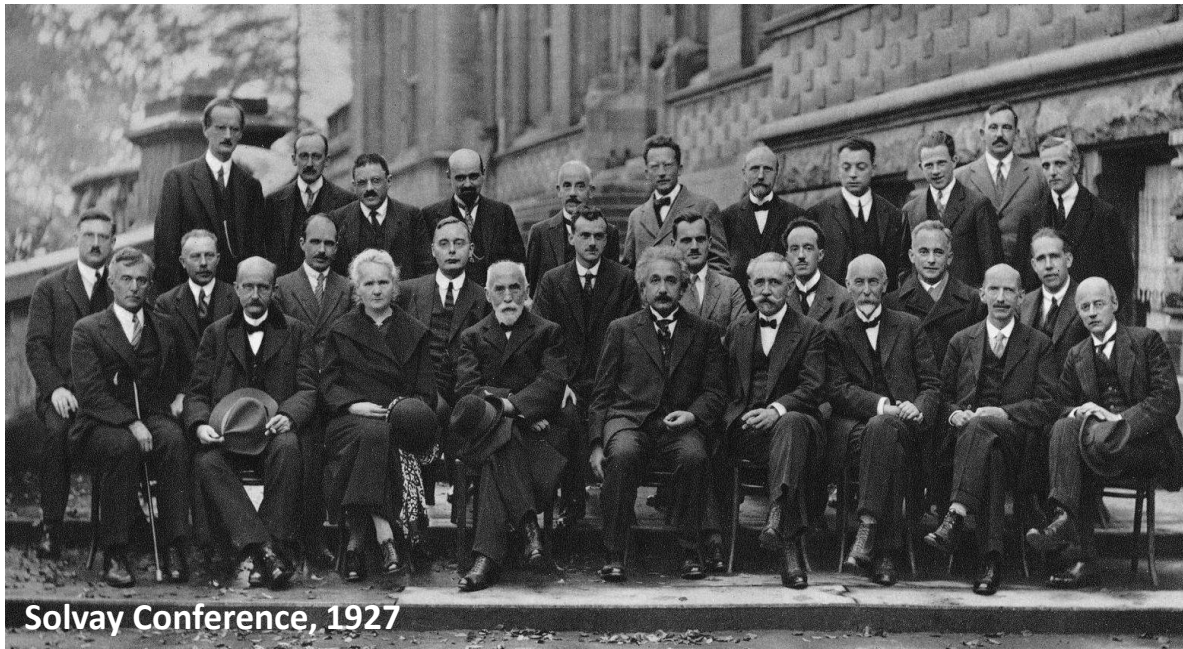


“Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.”

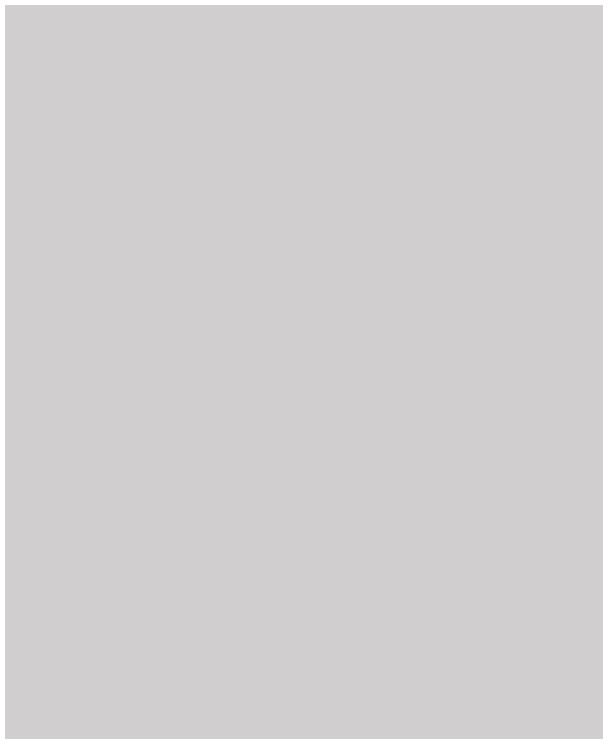
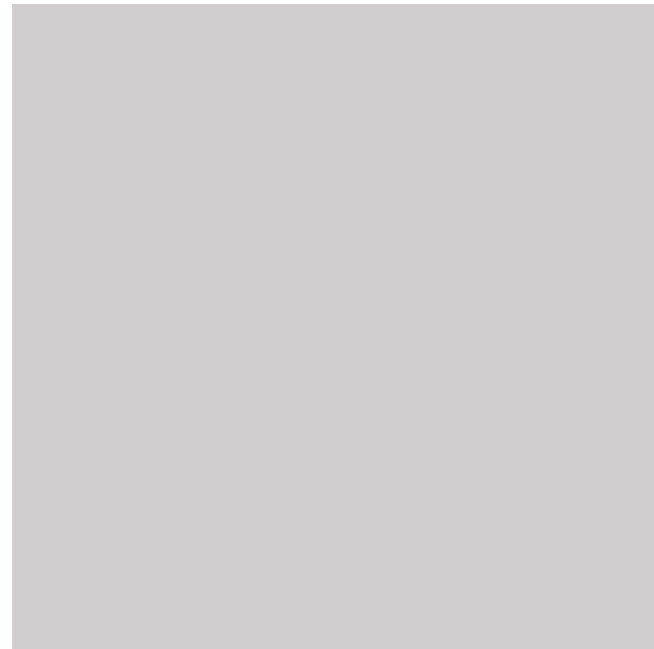


It is disappointing that, in the 21st century, and in fields like the space sector, which is known for breaking boundaries, we are still not making the most of what women have to contribute.

Simonetta Di Pippo
International Gender Champions, Vienna, June 2017



Solvay Conference, 1927



ISEF 2, 2018



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





**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?**

**Space for Women
Project**



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



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