

## Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) Holds Annual Global Policy Forum (GPF)

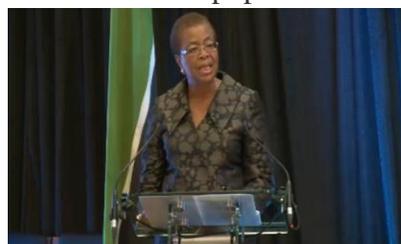
The Alliance for Financial Inclusion held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Policy Forum in Maputo, Mozambique from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. Over 450 participants including Governors of central banks, policymakers, regulators, CEOs of international organizations and the private sector attended the Forum. The theme was “**Inspiring Innovation to Advance Inclusion**”.

The welcome address was delivered by the President of Mozambique, Mr. Filipe Nyusi, while the keynote address was delivered by Madam Graça Machel. Mrs. Machel specifically stressed the need to bridge the gender financial inclusion gap, noting that the impact would be equivalent to adding another China and India to the formal financial system, in view of the size of the women population globally. According to her, entry into the formal economy sends a social message as, it is an indication that “this citizen counts”. Members were also recognized that societies cannot function properly if more than half of the population was left behind, hence bridging the gender financial inclusion gap needs to be a priority.



President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, declaring the GPF open, assisted by the Governor of the Banco de Mozambique

The Annual General Meeting of AFI members held during the forum, resolved to open the Network to high-income emerging countries and regional organizations. This was based on the rising profile of financial inclusion and growing demand from countries and regional organizations outside AFI’s current membership.



Madame Graça Machel delivering the Key Note Address

The high point of the Forum was the Maputo Accord proposed by Mozambique’s Central Bank Governor, Ernesto Gouveia Gove, as an addition to AFI’s Maya Declaration on financial inclusion. The Accord called on members to specifically include SMEs in their financial inclusion targets in view of their roles in driving employment, economic development and innovations. Accordingly, members added new commitments to the Maya Declaration on the last day of the event, particularly on SME finance.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Godwin Emefiele was represented by his Special Adviser on Development Finance, Mr. Paul Eluhaiwe who participated in the Panel Discussion on Leadership and Innovation in SME Financing.



Panel discussion on Leadership and Innovation in SME Financing



Graduates of the Fletcher School Leadership Programme for Financial Inclusion display their certificates

The Central Bank of Fiji will host the 8<sup>th</sup> GPF in Suva, Fiji in September 2016. Graduating students of the Fletcher School Leadership Programme for Financial Inclusion which included the Head of Financial Inclusion Secretariat, Mrs. Temiptope Akin-Fadeyi received their certificates during the Forum.