



## IBM Video - "Hidden Strength: Africa's Women"

**Bola Olabasi, Founder & CEO, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network:** Women have always been contributing to economic growth, and Africa is no exception.

In Africa especially, we see quite a number of women who are entrepreneurs, however, we don't really see those who are bringing new ideas, new concepts to market, in the same way that we do see in some other developed countries.

**Gladys Otinga Ondera, Lecturer & Doctoral Student, University of South Africa:** The women need skills. Some of them need entrepreneur skills, skills to manage the business. We want to empower the women to come up, be able to take charge of their homes, to be able to access credit. Women should be empowered to pay for the university education.

**Thembi Majola-Embalo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa:** If we were able to give this much more attention, it would help.

That attention is not going to come from anywhere else except ourselves. So we need to, as Africans lead the way in doing this.

**Wendy Mukuru, Country Portfolio Associate, Acumen Fund Kenya:** We do want to improve our circumstances. We do want to be involved. We do want to have a say. As a human being, you want to have the dignity of having something to say about the way you live, and how you're going to reach aspirations.

**Elmira Bayrasli, Director, Corporate Partnerships and Outreach, Endeavor:** Everybody has a particular area of expertise...and it's very essential that somebody is linking all of these together and really leveraging all of the skills and the value-add that each brings to the table.

**Mmbatho Matiwane, Acting CEO, South African Women Entrepreneurs' Network:** Women are the future, you talk about growing the economy, bringing in new type of services, bringing in new customers... those are women.

[END OF SEGMENT]