

It is with exceeding great joy that I welcome you to Arise Women's Conference 2023 which marks **15** this year.

Today, we are privileged and honoured to see that **ARISE** is **GLOBAL** in every ramification; from the **ARISE WALK FOR LIFE, GOLF, FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT. PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY, EDUCATION ETC.**

Women around the world are making their voices heard, breaking barriers and occupying more leadership positions. There is an urgent call to action.

Today, I welcome my **ARISE SISTERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD - SWEDEN, ITALY, NORTH AMERICA,**

**DUBAI, GHANA, ZAMBIA, INDIA,  
FINLAND, U.K.,** too many to mention.

The theme this year is **STEP UP** it is a  
**RALLYING CRY – A CALL TO  
EXCELLENCE, AN ANTHEM OF  
EMPOWERMENT AND ACTION.**

Permit me to start with two quotes:

**FORTUNE BEFRIENDS THE BOLD**

**Emily Dickinson**

**SUCCESS IS SURVIVAL**

**Leonard Cohen**

Today, women face the choice of either to succumb to the stereotypical mold they have been placed in or to challenge it.

**STEP UP IS A CALL TO CHALLENGE  
IT. STEP UP SPEAKS TO SELF  
ACTUALIZATION**

**STEP UP SPEAKS TO HARNESSING  
YOUR ECONOMIC; MENTAL,  
PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL,  
STRENGTH.**

We need to break free from the mold.  
**I choose to challenge it.** At this  
conference, we want to infuse ourselves  
with.

**RESILIENCE**  
**COURAGE**  
**STRENGTH**  
**PERSISTENCE**  
**TENACITY**  
**POWER**  
**DETERMINATION**

To effect the necessary change to believe in our infinite potential to succeed.

**Joshua 1:9 KJV** – The Lord said: “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest”.

We need to be positive, to aim higher than we currently are doing. It is not only about being better than your contemporaries or predecessors, it is **TO BE BETTER THAN YOURSELF**

**As long as you have breath, you have infinite potential. Deuteronomy 1:8**  
**KJV**: “Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them”.

**You are born to win but to be a winner, you must plan to win and expect to win.**

It is time to unlock our capabilities.

**THE WORLD OVER, INCLUDING AFRICA, WOMEN ARE THE GREATEST UNTAPPED POWER.**

**SO AT THIS CONFERENCE, WE WILL STEP UP**

**TO STEP UP MEANS**

- 1) Break down barriers limiting our progress
- 2) Challenge stereotypes, foster an environment of equal opportunity based on merit.

- 3) Empower more Women and others so we can create a lasting legacy and sustainability.
- 4) Mentor more Women, open more doors as we are doing today by going completely global.
- 5) Embrace Emotional Intelligence, sensitivity to others and thereby inculcating a decent strong value system.
- 6) Embrace Innovation, Technology Artificial Intelligence the sciences, computer technology robotics. All these are needed in today's world.

The World Economic Forum's future on jobs report 2023 lists certain skills as tops in demand by 2027.

- Analytical thinking
- Creative thinking
- Artificial intelligence
- Big Data

While six in ten workers will require training before 2027, only half of those workers are seen to have access to adequate training opportunities, according to the report.

The implication is that half of today's workforce may not have the skills they require to thrive in the very near future.

**WE MUST STEP UP**

### **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF**

- 1) WHAT AM I CAPABLE OF DOING? **DO I HAVE THE MENTAL CAPABILITY, FORTITUDE, WILLPOWER AND COURAGE.**

**Jeremiah 29:11 KJV** "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end".

2) WILL I BE DISILLUSIONED BY ADVERSITY OR CAN I WEATHER ANY STORM OR ADVERSITY.

**STORMS HIT YOUR WEAKNESS BUT INVARIABLY IT ALSO UNLOCKS YOUR TRUE STRENGTH**

You must never give up.

**Dear Sister, you cannot change the directions of the wind but you can adjust your sail to always reach your destination.**



**ARISE STEPS UP ALL THE TIME**  
**WE ARE DOERS NOT**  
**COMPLAINANTS.**

According to the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) up to six out of ten Nigerians lack access to quality primary Health care services.

Lack of access to Healthcare is the leading cause of maternal death in Africa. Nigeria is home to 20% of all maternal deaths according to Global citizen.

However, ARISE STEPPED UP AND STEPPED IN. We built a hospital in Dafara.

We have taken delivery of many babies and we are happy to say no

maternal death and no infant death.  
We provide good ante-natal and  
postpartum care.

ARISE KEEPS STEPPING UP. Providing  
infrastructure to curb infrastructural  
deficits especially water by putting  
boreholes in many rural communities.

We can all do same and more.

- 3) MAJOR ON YOUR STRENGTH TELL  
YOURSELF – I WILL MAJOR DAILY ON  
MY STRENGTH
- 4) LEARN SKILLS TO EXCEL
- 5) DEFINE YOUR GOALS
- 6) CONTINUALLY AND CONSCIOUSLY  
DEMONSTRATE CHARACTER AND  
LEADERSHIP

- 7) MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL BY  
TREATING TIME PRECIOSLY LIKE  
GOLD.
- 8) STAY POSITIVE
- 9) LEARN TO NETWORK, DIVERSIFY,  
CREATE WEALTH, BUILD HUMAN  
CAPITAL
- 10) SET MILESTONES
- 11) PLAY FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND  
LONGEVITY
- 12) BE SUPER CONFIDENT, DON'T GET  
TRAPPED IN FAILURE

**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU  
LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE**

13) LEARN TO CELEBRATE YOURSELF,  
YOUR SUCCESSES. CELEBRATE  
ALWAYS.

**STEP UP SPEAKS TO SELF-  
ACTUALIZATION**, to our innate ability  
to perform in alignment to our highest  
self.

**Don't ever let the memories of your  
past limit the potential of your  
future.**

Therefore we need to STEP UP OUR  
ADVOCACY AND RAISE OUR VOICES IN  
UNISON. TO BRING TO LIGHT THE  
many areas that need urgent  
interventions.

Our collective voice can make a world of  
difference in our nations and to our  
succeeding generation.

Secondly, we need stronger partnership and alliances between women, Government, Private Organisations and men to tackle issues threatening our existence.

With partnership we STEP UP and we can achieve bigger interventions or projects. The problems we face as a Nation is MEGA. WE NEED TO STEP UP TOGETHER.

Thirdly, arise invites you to pool together investments. we need big tickets investment in our nation.

Investment will go a long way in Education, Healthcare delivery, infrastructure.

Pooling of resources by Government, private sector bodies like Arise will bring

about sure and sustainable development  
in Nigeria.

THE TIME TO STEP UP OUR GAME IS  
NOW.

LET THE CONVERSATION and the  
strengthening of partnerships begin.  
COLLECTIVELY LET'S STEP UP.

**THERE ARE NO LIMITS  
THERE IS ONLY ONE YOU  
YOU ARE SUPER  
STEP UP NOW**

**SIJU ILUYOMADE  
2023**