

**Technical Presentation**  
**By**  
**The President, Association of Professional Women Engineers of  
Nigeria (APWEN), Engr. Dr Elizabeth J. Eterigho FNSE, FNSChE**  
**To**  
**commemorate the International Women in Engineering Day, 2023**

**Theme: 'Make Safety Seen'**

Today, we gather here to celebrate the 10th International Women in Engineering Day, a momentous occasion where we recognize and honour the remarkable contributions of women engineers worldwide. This year's theme, "Make Safety Seen," not only highlights the importance of safety in engineering but also sheds light on the extraordinary work women engineers are doing to ensure the well-being and safety of the society.

It is truly an honour to be part of this global movement that recognizes the outstanding achievements of women engineers throughout history. From trailblazers like Ada Lovelace and Marie Curie to modern pioneers like Engr Olutunbi Maduka, women engineers particularly have demonstrated time and again that they possess the talent, ingenuity, and passion to make significant contributions in our field. Women engineers are leaving an indelible mark on society. They are contributing their technical expertise, their creativity, and their dedication to creating a better, safer, and more sustainable world for all.

From designing innovative structures that withstand the forces of nature to developing sustainable solutions for a better future, women engineers have consistently pushed the boundaries of what is possible. They have played a crucial role in creating safer environments, improving infrastructure, and enhancing the quality of life for communities around the world.

However, as we celebrate these achievements, we must also acknowledge the stark reality that women engineers are still vastly underrepresented in our profession.

Despite their undeniable talent and capability, women continue to face barriers and biases that impede their progress.

It is disheartening to acknowledge that women engineers around the world are still hugely underrepresented. We cannot turn a blind eye to the stark reality that women remain a minority in engineering.

Let me share a sobering statistic: in Nigeria, only a mere 11% of engineers are women. This disparity not only hinders diversity but also limits the perspectives and ideas that could revolutionize the engineering field. This imbalance is not unique to Nigeria but persists globally, calling for our attention and action.

On this International Women in Engineering Day, let us commit ourselves to the cause of promoting safety, diversity, and equality in engineering. Together, we can break down barriers, dismantle biases, and build a future where women engineers are recognized, respected, and celebrated for their invaluable contributions.

It is incumbent upon all of us to encourage and inspire more young women and girls to pursue careers in engineering. We must foster an environment that empowers them to believe in their abilities, dream big, and shatter the glass ceiling that persists in our industry.

By promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education among girls, we can cultivate a pipeline of talented and diverse engineers who will shape the future of our profession. By breaking down the barriers that discourage women from entering engineering fields, we unlock immense potential and drive progress.

It is a great pleasure to stand before you today in celebrating the gender that makes the world **“SAFE”**; **and that is the women** in Engineering. More specifically, I would like to draw your attention to the concept of "Make Safety Seen."

"Make Safety Seen" is a call to action—a reminder that safety should not be invisible or forgotten. It is about creating a culture where safety is valued, prioritized, and integrated into every aspect of our lives. Whether it is at work, at home, or on the road, safety must be visible and actively promoted.

When we say "Make Safety Seen," we are emphasizing the importance of awareness. It is about being vigilant and mindful of potential hazards and risks. It means taking the time to assess our surroundings, identify potential dangers, and implement preventive measures to mitigate them. By being aware, we can proactively prevent accidents, injuries, and even save lives.

But making safety seen goes beyond personal awareness. It also involves creating an environment that encourages safety. This can be achieved by promoting open communication, where individuals feel comfortable reporting safety concerns or suggesting improvements. It means providing proper training and education to equip people with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves and others. It means establishing clear guidelines and protocols, and holding everyone accountable for their actions.

On the road, making safety seen is about being a responsible driver, adhering to traffic rules, and eliminating distractions. It means wearing seat belt, using indicators, and respecting speed limits. When safety is seen on the roads, we reduce the risk of accidents and protect ourselves, our passengers, and other road users.

Today, as we celebrate International Women in Engineering Day, APWEN reaffirms her commitment to making safety seen in all aspects of engineering and to creating a world where every young woman and girl feel encouraged, supported, and empowered to pursue their dreams in engineering. Together, we can create a future where the remarkable achievements of women engineers are not the exception but the rule.

In conclusion, "Make Safety Seen" is a powerful message that reminds us to prioritize safety and make it a visible part of our daily lives. Together, we can make safety seen and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future where the voices and talents of women engineers are heard loud and clear.

Thank you for your attention.