



**ASSOCIATION
OF WOMEN IN
MINING IN
AFRICA**

AWIMA for AMV Ratification Workshop

By

**Zenzi Awases
Freetown, Sierra Leone
24 April 2025**





AWIMA, the continental voice
of African women
for greater participation
and empowerment

The purpose of AWIMA is to be the voice of women in enhancing the participation and economic empowerment of women in the mining and minerals sector, both in the continent and globally.

AWIMA is the continental voice of African women for greater participation and empowerment of women in the mining and extractives sector.

Who We are

A **network** of **national associations** of African women in the **extractives sector**: mining and *oil & gas and energy*.

AWIMA's main objective is to speak for and advance **women's participation** and **economic empowerment** in the extractives sector at the continental and global levels.



Why We Exist

The African Mining Vision aims for
“**Transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation**
of mineral resources to underpin **broad-based
sustainable growth** and **socio-economic
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EMPOWERING WOMEN, TRANSFORMING AFRICA THE ROAD TO AU AGENDA 2063



Vision

Empowering Women, Building Africa's Future



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AWIMA was founded on 19 August 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, during the African Women Business Linkages Forum hosted by the African Union Commission.



Our Vision

A strong, responsible and more inclusive African mining industry for women



Our mission focuses on empowering women through capacity-building and promoting gender equality in mining.

Our Mission

Promote leadership, inclusive and sustainable empowerment of women in the mining sector in Africa.





AWIMA unites **42 National WIM**
Organizations across the 5 regions in
Africa



>100 000 African Women in Mining

Membership

Region	Number of Members
Southern Africa	11
Central Africa	6
West Africa	14
East Africa	10
North Africa	1

Comprises of:

- Professional Women in Mining
- Women in ASM
- Women entrepreneurs in Mining related enterprises
- Women in Communities.
- **Rising Stars**





PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

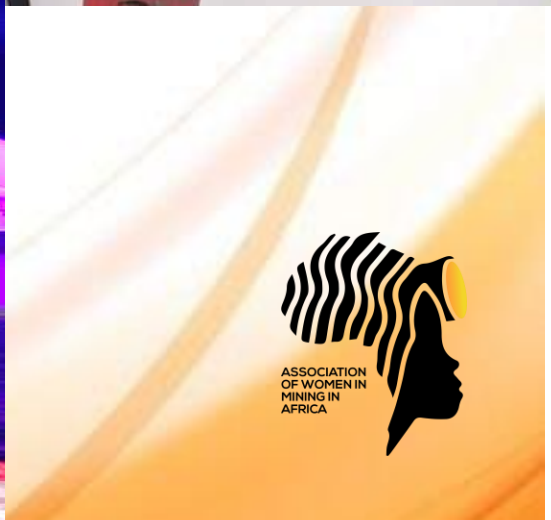


Governance Structure

- Elective AGM every 2 years
- National associations elect:
 - the President and Vice-President and their
 - regional representative



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MS. ZENZI NATASHA AWASES

President



DR ROSINE ATAFEINAM ABALO

Vice-President



MS. IMMACULEE NYIRANZIRORERA

Eastern Africa



JANET FEBISOLA ADEYEMI

Western Africa



MS. KHAOULA MIMID

Northern Africa



MS. FLORE IRE KOUMATEY

Central Africa

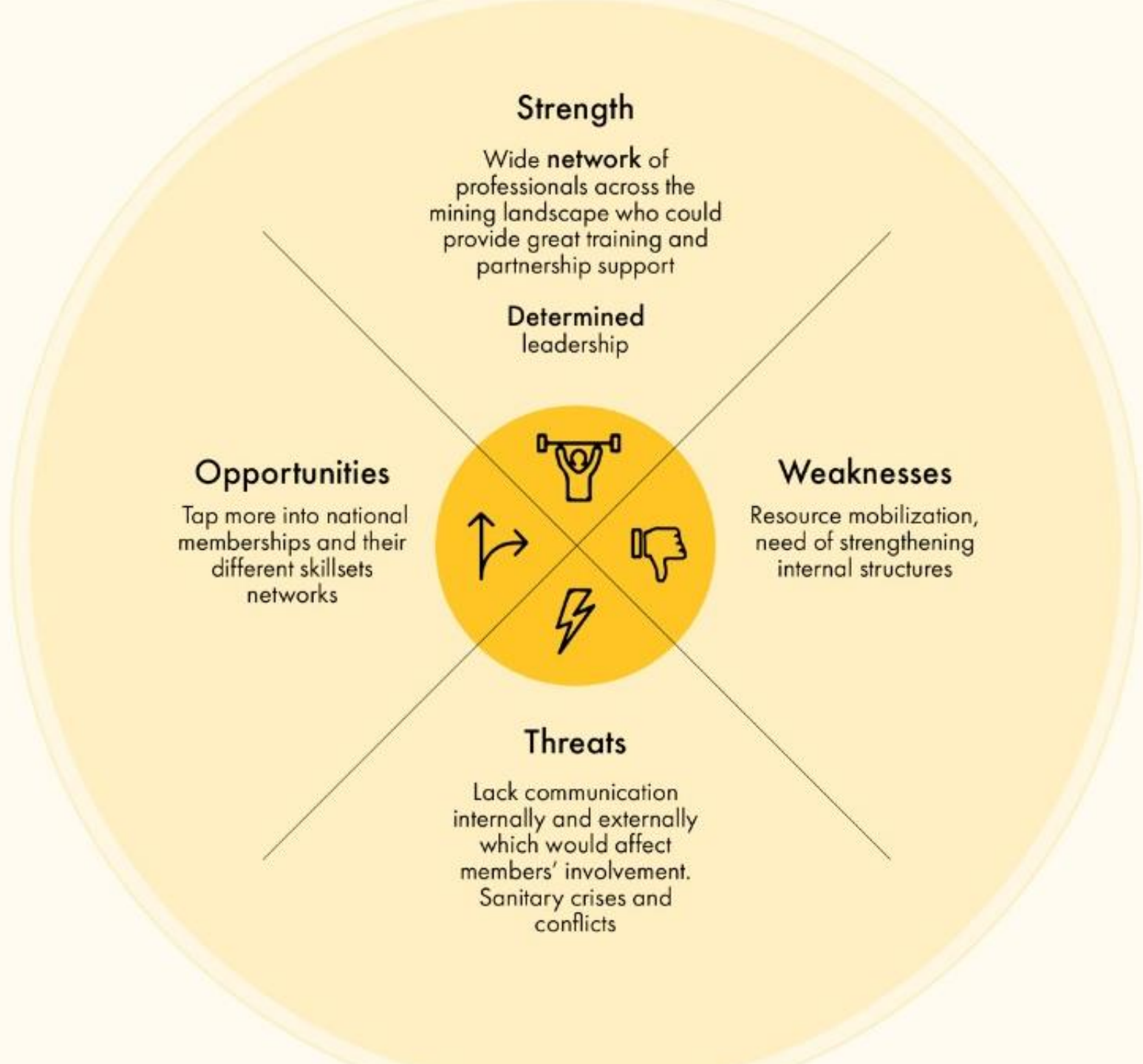


MS. KUNDAI CHIKONZO MIDZI

Southern Africa

Executive Board: 2025-2027







Challenges facing WIM

- Unconscious Bias & Cultural Norms
- Under-representation in Leadership
- Access to Finance

 NORTHERN AFRICA
 WESTERN AFRICA
 CENTRAL AFRICA
 EASTERN AFRICA



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Programmes & Initiatives



Voices of African Women in Mining on COVID-19



Breaking Barriers: Success Strategies for Black Female Jewellers



Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls in the Mining Sector in Africa (EVEFMinAf)



AWIMA Leadership Conference 2024



AWIMA Jewellery Design Competition



Empowering Women in Mining through Financial Inclusion

Partners





PREVIOUS SPONSORS/PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



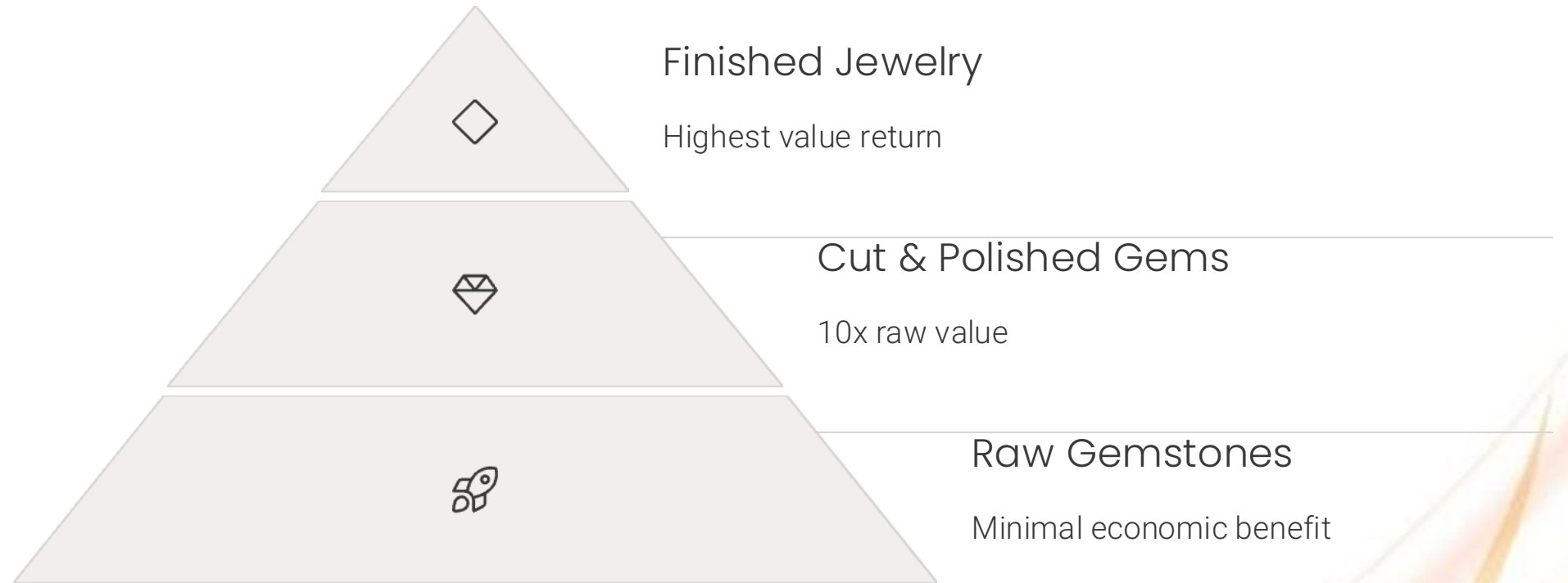
A large, stylized black silhouette of a woman's head in profile, facing right. She is wearing a headlamp with a yellow lens. The top of her head is decorated with several thick, wavy black and white stripes.

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AWIMA & AGJEC: Key Lessons Learnt



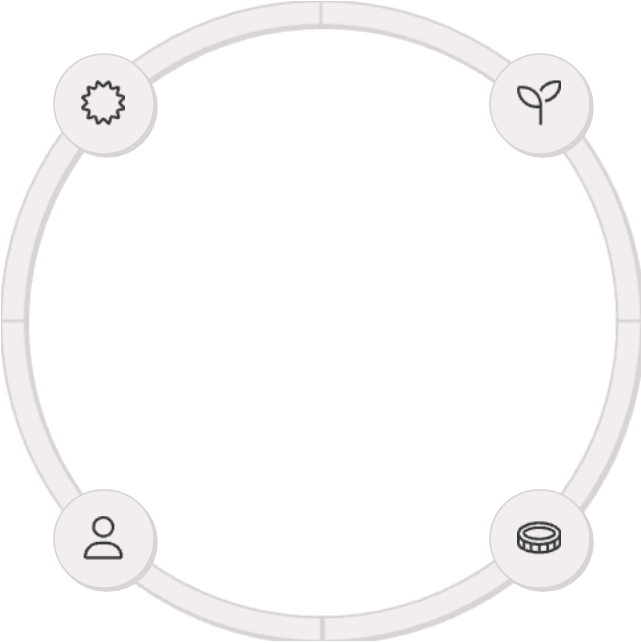
Key Lesson 1: Value Addition is Critical



Key Lesson 2: Formalization & Regulation Matter

Market Access
Compliance enables global trade

Artisanal Mining
Significant contribution needing formalization



Environmental Standards
Sustainable resource management

Tax Revenue
Formalization increases government income

Key Lesson 3: Skills Development is Essential



Training Programs

Vocational education in cutting, polishing, and design

Mentorship

Knowledge transfer from experts to new artisans

Certification

Industry standards and formal recognition



Key Lesson 4: Access to Finance Remains a Barrier



Challenge

Women struggle to access credit and capital



Solution

Innovative financing mechanisms needed



Progress

AWIMA hosted investor pitching sessions



Goal

Tailored financial products for sector growth

The Way Forward

Strengthening Institutional Role

AWIMA will bolster its institutional capacity to influence mining policies promoting gender equality in Africa.

Proposed Initiatives:

AWIMA aims to launch initiatives focused on mentorship, networking, and policy advocacy.

Enhancing Visibility

AWIMA plans to enhance visibility through campaigns, showcasing women's contributions to the mining sector.



Requirements



Partnership



Financing

Conclusion



Together, we can transform Africa's gemstone wealth into sustainable prosperity.



Thank You

Zenzi Natasha Awases

zenzi@awimaafrica.org



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