



## **Speech of Mrs. Saïma KHENISSY, President of the TWMA**

### **AMUCMA-AWMA 16th to 18th July 2015 KENYA**

#### **Women in Mathematics for Social Change & Sustainable Livelihoods**

First of all, I would like to give my warm thanks to Ms. Marie-Françoise Roy Chair of the IMU-CWM. I just met her a couple of months ago in Tunis and she clearly told me: you have to settle the Tunisian Women Mathematician's! She also introduced me to the African Women in Mathematics Association (AWMA) and that was the first time I got aware of such great organization. She also encouraged me to participate in this workshop. Thank you again Marie-Françoise.

Also I would like to thank Ms. Marie Françoise Ouedraogo, President of AWMA for her support to our new Tunisian association. She insisted that I come here in Kenya to meet all of you, which I consider as a great honor.

My thanks are also dedicated to the members of the local organizing committee:

Ms. Josephine Kagunda

Ms. Margaret Gathogo,

Ms. Beth Kiratu,

Ms. Marilyn Rono,

But I want to give a special thanks to Ms. Winnie Mutuku for being very efficient in filling me in with a lot of details in such a short time!

Thanks Kenya. Merci Mesdames also for your kindness.

You make me feel very proud of being a woman, an African Woman. Vive l'Afrique et Vive la Femme Africaine!

Galilée said: « Mathematics are the language in which the universe is written », « Les mathématiques sont le langage du monde ». It is mandatory to promote mathematics by all

the means and everywhere in this universe. In particular, by women in Africa! The last Fields Medal was assigned to a woman, so women must go on further and further in this vital field and men must continue also to do mathematics, of course!

I read carefully the recent report on the activities of AWMA: a good job and a wonderful effort have been done.

I am sure that things are about to progress rapidly and efficiently and this beautiful project, that is AWMA, will certainly have a major role in Education in general, in our beloved continent, Mama Africa!

Here, I just want to point out that one of the most important objectives leading to the progress of education, is to bring African girls to schools and of course to the field of mathematics. Naturally, I share this ideology, but to do this, African girls should have African idols in mathematics in order to be motivated. Hence, even if one has to struggle against difficulties in primary and higher schools in African institutions, one also has to promote mathematics at high levels, graduate levels and invest in serious worldwide research.

As a Tunisian, I do believe that my country can help a lot in this direction. So we have to set up a strategy to settle an « African Observatory in Mathematical Research », where African countries can share their findings, ideas and research progress.

We have to have also an « African Invention Journal in Mathematics ». The transfer of knowledge must be done within Africa so that we can rise altogether.

Finally, I hail:

The Women in Mathematics Association in Togo

L'Association des jeunes Femmes et Mathématiques de l'Institut FHB

The Kenyan Women in Mathematics

The future Ethiopian Women in Mathematics

The Congolese Women in Mathematics and Computer Sciences

The Academic Women's Association NUSTAWA

I hail the only Lady Professor of Mathematics in Zimbabwe and also the only woman Professor of Mathematics in Congo Brazzaville, hoping that she's doing well.

Together, we can!