

SPEECH BY DR. CHRIS IFEDIORA, THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE OCI FOUNDATION,
DELIVERED AT THE 23rd REGULAR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ON WOMEN AFFAIRS,
HELD AT THE CALABAR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE,
NIGERIA

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[Read By Patience E. Ochayi, Corps Member Volunteering for the OCI Foundation]

1. Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, please, kindly permit me to stand on already-established protocol.
2. The OCI Foundation is pleased to be here today, and immensely thank the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, our esteemed partner of 4 years, for this glorious opportunity to engage advocates and stakeholders on affairs that concern women in Nigeria.
3. Established in 2016, the OCI Foundation, with formal registrations in both Nigeria and Australia, has now emerged as a key player in women's affairs, and we feel excited and at home with a gathering such as this, where related issues are being discussed at the highest level.
4. Ladies and gentlemen, we will all be pleased to know that, working with associates in Nigeria's 9th National Assembly, the OCI Foundation facilitated two women-friendly pieces of legislation. When implemented, laws emanating from those legislations can significantly advance the welfare of women in Nigeria.
5. Those two bills, successfully passed by both chambers of the just-concluded 9th National Assembly, are now only awaiting presidential assent before they become laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
6. The first bill aims to integrate anti-breast and anti-cervical cancer teachings into the regular curriculum of all Senior Secondary Schools and Colleges of Education in Nigeria. our research has shown that such teachings will be vital weapons in the fight against these two top killer cancers of Nigerian women. In our humble view, this intervention may be among the most important healthcare initiative in recent Nigerian history. Please, let us all support it.
7. The second bill, ladies and gentlemen, is even more exciting. It promotes the introduction of preventive measures on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (also known as SGBV) into the curriculum of all secondary schools in Nigeria, starting from JSS 1 to SSS 3.
8. This second law arms young Nigerians with the knowledge of preventive measures against incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, and offers a major breakthrough in the efforts to curtail this scourge that has damaged many Nigerians, particularly the female folk.

9. Civic Education, a subject compulsory for all students in Nigerian secondary schools, has been chosen for these teachings.
10. Ladies and gentlemen, as stakeholders in women's affairs in our dear country, we are hopeful that you will all be part of the implementation of these two laws, when they are assented to.
11. The OCI Foundation remains ever-ready to work with the Federal Government in implementing these laws. Today, we invite all groups present here, to join in this project as well.
12. Through these laws, lives will be lifted, lives will be saved, and lives will be rejuvenated.
13. Our first task, ladies and gentlemen, is for us all to draw the attention of Mr. President to the need to sign these bills into law as soon as possible. We plead with stakeholders with the relevant influences within the Nigerian Presidency, to assist.
14. Thereafter, our next task, as stakeholders, will then be to engage all relevant ministries and parastatals for the speedy implementation of the two laws.
15. Ladies and gentlemen, time is of the essence here. Sadly, as we speak, someone, somewhere in Nigeria, is about to die from breast or cervical cancer-related issues. And sadly, as we speak, someone is, yet again, facing sexual or gender-based violence.
16. We need to act now. We now have the legal tools to act, and I urge us all to move quickly.
17. Let us all work together to get this done for every Nigerian girl, and for every Nigerian woman.
18. Hopefully, by the 24th National Summit next year, we will all gather again to count and celebrate the success stories that will inevitably emerge from these two laws.
19. With determination, this 23rd Summit can provide the catalyst needed to make things happen in the shortest possible time. Let's do it!
20. Thank you all for listening.
21. And, please permit me to invite you all to work with the OCI Foundation, as we continue TO RISE, BY LIFTING OTHERS.
22. God bless you all.