



STAMP & RETURN

# KENYA WOMEN FINANCE TRUST

(Affiliated to Women's World Banking)

4<sup>th</sup> May, 1999

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RECEIVED

MAY 10 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms Marjorie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of application of Afrispace Inc., for Authority to launch and operate a satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System. File No. CSS-90-017 (IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-19900723-00002); Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-000016 (Call Sign 52367)

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Kenya Women's Finance Trust is familiar with the Afrispace project and supports it whole-heartedly. We understand it is being reviewed by the U.S Federal Communications Commission for full licensing. We write to express our support and sincerely hope that you will promptly approve it. It has great potential to improve the status of Women in Kenya.

The Kenya Women finance trust was founded in 1981. It is an affiliate of Women World Banking, a global non-profit making institution established in 1979 to advance the full economic participation of Women. WWB is one of the world leaders in micro enterprise financing through a network of over 50 affiliates located in 43 countries around the world. Since 1979, WWB has made more than 200,000 loans to low income women around the world. The average loan size is US\$600 and the repayment rate weighted by affiliate portfolio size is 97 percent. WWB is the only woman led global network that aims to open the world financial system to low income women.

As an affiliate of WWB, The Kenya women Finance trust is woman led and is an independent, legally established entity. Our work involves identifying potential loan recipients and assessing credit worthiness. Low-income women are usually asset-poor and therefore collateral requirements are creative. The trust accepts group guarantees instead of land or other traditional guarantees. We find ways to help poor women establish either group or individual savings accounts.

The Afrispace system will provide a unique means for the trust to communicate with community based rural groups and loan recipients across the country. We would like to create programming to be broadcast on the AfriSpace system that will advance our objectives of empowering women entrepreneurs and enabling women's self- sufficiency.

The Kenya Women's Finance Trust thanks the commission for its consideration and urges approval of the AfriSpace system.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer N. Riria (Ph.D.)  
Managing Director.