GLOBAL TRADE GOVERNANCE AND THE NIGERIAN LEGAL SYSTEM: ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN INCLUSION. [1]*

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Abstract

The study examines the interaction between global trade governance and Nigerian legal system and argues for inclusion of women in global economy. Global trade governance and the Nigerian legal system are interrelated issues that propel women to thrive in commercial sphere. This qualitative investigation aims to shed light on the interaction between global trade governance, Nigerian legal system and the need for repositioning of women for wealth. The method adopted is doctrinal via text books, internet material and case laws. The study explores prominent theoretical framework for comprehending international trade frameworks, Nigerian legal system and challenges of women's exclusion in global economy, emphasizing their implications for development of nations and implementation of legal mitigation frameworks. This study explored prominent theoretical frameworks such as liberal trade theory, mercantilist/neo-mercantilist theory, institutional/regime theory, dependency theory and developmental theory that shed light on global trade governance. The work showed that, even though global governance cannot apply automatically in Nigeria by virtue of Section 12(1) of the Constitution, Nigerian legal system has aligned comprehensively with its provisions for effective global trade. However, women are still under represented in global economy despite plethora of legal frameworks that provides for their inclusion. The work further reveals that economic empowerment bridges gender gap and reduces poverty at all levels. Furthermore, women advancement will help to attain the United Nation's mandate on Sustainability development goal. These challenges are multifaceted and include: non domestication of treaties, digital divide, socioeconomic and cultural practices. The paper recommends for review and implementation of extant laws such as 1999 and domestication of relevant laws.

Key Words: Global Trade Governance, Nigerian Legal System and Women Inclusion.

1.0 Introduction

Global trade governance refers to international legal and institutional arrangement that regulates trade relations among nations to build capacity, convergence, complementarity and control[2]. It

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[2] General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) https://www.econstor.eu,accessed on 24/11/2025

encompasses multilateral agreements, organizations and legal norms that determine how countries engage in global commerce. While, Nigeria's legal system include the totality of laws in Nigeria and the machinery through which these laws are enforced[3]. However, the work shows that effective alignment depends on constitutional domestication, political commitment, and institutional reform to ensure that global principles translate into modern realities. Nigeria, as a member of the WTO, ECOWAS, and AfCFTA, is deeply influenced by global trade rules but women's participation in trade, both at the policy and operational levels, remains limited due to social-legal, economical and institutional barriers. hence, the need for this paper. Empirically, studies show that only 15% of businesses engaged in international trade are led by women[4]. As of 2022, only 2% of venture capital world life went to women-owned business with most of those funding decisions made by men. World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023, indicates that it will take at least fifty years to close the gender gap in international trade between male and female participants[5]. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) women are rarely represented in global value chains, trade negotiations and export markets[6]. With respect to small medium enterprise, statistics reveal gap between women and men in the domestic sphere for example among all SMEs, only 32%, out of 96% businesses are owned by women[7]. Further studies, reveal that only 52% of women are economically active in Nigeria.[8] Hence, the need to advocate for women's inclusion within both global trade increase productivity in every sphere. Hence, the need to bridge the gap for accelerated development. It is cardinal to note that closing gender gaps in international trade is apposite for sustainable development because it eliminates poverty to the barest minimum, benefit business and enhance economic development, particularly Goal 5 which provides for gender equality and goal 8 which provides for decent work and economic growth. Accordingly, this study examines extant laws, makes serious advocacy for women inclusion in global trade and calls for eradication of negative factors that are inimical to their participation. The work makes the following proposals: Firstly, whether international trade rules like World Trade Organisation (WTO) or African Continental Free Trade Area (AFcFTA) can apply automatically in Nigerian legal system, secondly, whether there are lapses in Nigerian legal system that hinder effective economic globalization , thirdly, whether women are properly integrated in global economy, fourthly whether there are factors that exacerbate gender inequality in Nigeria legal system, fifthly, whether Nigerian legal system has complied with the provisions of international rule on global governance, sixthly, whether digital platforms can leverage and reposition women in international trade. Finally, whether, inclusion of women in international trade is critical for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[3] https://www.learnnigerianlaw.com ,accessed on 24/11/2025

[4] World Trade Organisation https://www.wto.org.ng accessed on 10/10/2025.

[5] World Bank, https://www.worldbank.org, accessed on 10/10/2025

[6] The World Economic Forum, https://www.weforum.org. 10/10/2025

[7] Ibid.

[8] Ibid.

2.0 Global Governance and Nigerian Legal System

Global governance means the collective management of international trade governance based on the following treaties or agreements like:

(a) The Marrakesh Agreement (1994) which establishes the WTO.
(b) General Agreement on Trade in Services
(c) Agreement on trade related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) products intellectual property rights.
(d) Disputes Settlement Understanding (DSU) provides mechanism for resolving trade disputes.
(e) The World Bank
(f) The International Monetary Bank
(g) Regional Legal Framework
(h) Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFcTA)
(i) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

While Nigerian legal system comprises of legal, institutional framework and processes that regulate laws in Nigeria and they consist of the 1999 Constitution and various Statutes that regulate trade in Nigeria such as:

Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA), Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act etc.

It is worthy to note that Nigeria trade institution regularly engage with international bodies and rule like WTO through trade policy review, capacity building programs and trade negotiations enhance Nigeria's capacity in global economy affording her to benefit maximally while meeting international obligation.

Under, the Nigerian Legal system, even though the court cannot directly apply WTO rules unless domesticated. The Court may refer to WTO principles for interpretative purpose, particularly where interpreting domestic trade laws is consistent with international obligation, for instance, interpreting issues like tariff imposition, custom valuation or anti-dumping. The Courts may look at WTO principles to promote consistency with global standard.

3.0 Institutional Framework that Regulate International Trade and Gender Participation.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the principal global international organization that regulate trade between nations. Its main function is to improve the welfare of people around the world by ensuring that trade flows as smoothly, predictable and freely as possible.[9] It is headquartered in Geneva Switzerland and was established on January 1, 1995. The WTO builds upon the organizational structure of the GATT and its secretariat to a significant extant, it formalizes and extends the structure that had gradually evolved over a period of some 50years.The WTO serves a myriad of purpose administration of open trade for the benefit of all, negotiation of trade agreement, monitoring of national trade policies, technical assistance and training for

[9] https: //www.wto.org accessed on 16/ 11/2025

developing nations and settlements of trade disputes[10].In 2017, at the 11th Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, 121 members and observers of the World Trade Organizations signed a joint declaration to remove barriers to women's participation in trade.[11]

WTO encourages members to share best practices, collect gender disaggregated data, and review trade policies from a gender perspective. Further, WTO is currently, mainstreaming gender in trade policy by considering how trade rules affect women entrepreneurs especially in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), for instance, tariff reductions and improved market access can help women led businesses expand globally[12].Furthermore, it affords capacity building and technical assistance to women by providing conferences for women entrepreneurs in developing countries to help them understand trade rules, standards and export procedures. Giving them support to overcome challenges like lack of information, finance and digital divide[13].

Similarly, WTO collaborates with organizations like the International Trade Centre (ITC), UN women and the World Bank to push for women's empowerment in trade, for instance, *She Trades Initiative* (by ITC, with WTO support) connects millions of women entrepreneurs to global markets[14].

Currently, there is increased awareness of the gender trade nexus at the multilateral level. In fact, more countries now include gender chapters in trade agreements for instance, Chile-Uruguay FTA). It has increased growth of Women-led export businesses supported by WTO and partners. There is an ongoing push for digital trade access that is critical for women who face barriers in traditional markets[15].

3.1.1 UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UN trade and Development is an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations Secretariat that promotes the interests of developing countries in world trade. UNCTAD also helps developing countries integrate into the global economy to achieve sustainable development. It aids in data collection and analysis, facilitating consensus and capacity building[16].

2.1.2 World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF):

Founded at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944, the two institutions have complementary missions. The World Bank Group works with developing countries to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity, while the International Monetary Fund serves to stabilize the international monetary system and acts as a monitor of the world's currencies. The World Bank Group provides

[10] Ibid.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Ibid

[16] https://unctad.org accessed on 16/11/2026

financing, policy advice and technical assistance to governments, and also focuses on strengthening the private sector in developing countries.[17]The IMF keeps track of the economy globally and in member countries, lends to countries with balance of payments difficulties and gives practical help to members[18]. In fact, the International Monetary Fund, oversees the stability of the global money supply, while the World Bank works to reduce poverty around the world. The rule is that Countries must first join the IMF to be eligible to join the World Bank Group, today, each institution has 189 member countries[19].

3.2Regional Institutional and Legal Framework

3.2.1African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a trade agreement that aims to create a single market for goods and services across 55 African countries, making it the world's largest free trade area. It was established in 2018 and launched in 2021 to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers, with the ultimate goal of boosting intra-African trade, industrialization and economic development[20]. The AfCFTA covers areas such as trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property, digital trade and includes a protocol for the movement of people. AfCFTA is a flagship project of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and is administered by the AfCFTA Secretariat, based in Accra, Ghana[21].

3.2.2 African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (1981)

The Charter itself does not make direct reference on women economic rights but some of its provisions alludes to that, for instance article 15, provides for right to work under equitable and satisfactory conditions and receive equal pay for equal work[22]. Article 16 provides the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health[23]. While, article 17 provides for right to education and article 18(3), provides that the state should ensure elimination of discrimination against women and ensure the protection of the rights of women and children as stipulated in international declarations and conventions[24]. While, articles 19 to 22, provides for rights to equality of people with respect to wealth and natural resources, economic, social and cultural development.

3.2.3 Protocol to African Charter on the Rights of women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).

This protocol makes explicit provisions on the women economic rights. Article 13, provides for economic and social welfare rights and stipulates those women have the right to equal opportunities

[17]World Bank Group, https:// www.wordbank.org accessed 16/11/2025

[18] International Monetary Fund (IMF), https://www.imf.org

[19] Ibid.

[20] African Business, https://African.business accessed on 16/11/2025

[21] Ibid.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Ibid.

[24] Ibid.

in work and career advancement[25]. It provides for equal pay for equal work and protects women from exploitation and harmful practices in the workplace[26]. Article 19, provides for rights to sustainable development and endorses women's right to fully participate in development planning at all levels. It provides for access to education, training and information[27]. Specifically, article 21 provides that women and children to inherit properties on equal basis with men and enjoy access to credit, land and natural resources[28].

3.3.0 Domestic Framework

3.3.1 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)

Section 17(3) (a) – (e) provides for equal opportunity in employment such as adequate wages, maternity protection[29]. While ***Section 42*** provides for right to freedom from discrimination[30]. These sections are strong basis for gender equality in economic participation. As it affords women the opportunity to form and belong to association, including trade co-operations and Professional Organizations. Hence, enabling women to join trade and business association to enhance their participation in trade. However, in reality despite lofty provisions, Nigerian women do not enjoy equal economic opportunities as their male counterparts, facing significant disparities in income, access to financial services, employment informal sectors and political and economic participation due to cultural norms, discrimination and structural barrier. Further, Chapter (ii) of the 1999 Constitution provides for economic rights in its sections 13 to 24[31]. However, these rights are not justiciable by virtue of Section 6(6)(C) Constitution[32], it ousts the jurisdiction of the Court from entertaining matters contained therein. It is cardinal to note that these rights represent demands and claims which individuals and groups make on society, some of which are protected by law and have become part of the national laws (*lex lata*) or municipal law while others remain aspiration to be attained in future.

It is worthy to note that, the ouster claims made by virtue of ***sec 6(6)(c)*** impedes the rights of citizens particularly women from enjoying their rights to survival and development[33]. This principle was reinstated by the court in the case of ***Okogie v The Lagos State*** where the Court of Appeal in interpreting Chapter (ii) of the 1979, held as follows.

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[25] Protocol to African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2003)

[26] Ibid.

[27] Ibid.

[28] Ibid.

[29] The Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Section 17(3) (a) to (e)

[30] Ibid. Section 42

[31] Ibid, Section 13 to 24

[32] Ibid, Section 6(6) (c)

[33] Ibid.

The fundamental objective identifies the ultimate objectives of the nation and the directive principles lay down the policies which are expected to be pursued in the efforts of the nation to realize the national ideals. While ***sec 13 of the Constitution***[34] makes it a duty and responsibility of the judiciary among other organs of government, to conform to and apply the provisions of Chapter (ii) ***section 6(6)(c)*** of the same Constitution ensures that no court has jurisdiction to pronounce any decision as to whether any organ of government has acted or is acting in conformity with the fundamental objections and directive principles of state policy. It is clear therefore, that section 13 has not made chapter (ii) of the Constitution justiciable[35]. The question that comes to fore is whether the rights of women is guaranteed despite the ouster clause that prevents the court from entertaining matters housed in Chapter (ii) of the 1999 Constitution[36]. The question of non-justiciability of socioeconomic rights is critical for the empowerment of women, particularly in global trade. When the development and survival rights of people are not guaranteed, how can they enjoy their fundamental rights and compete favorably with their counterparts in other clime or jurisdictions. It is interesting to note that, socioeconomic rights like rights to education, rights to work, right to credit are precedents to achieve women empowerment. It is apposite to know that when women have access to these rights, they excel and make impact in every sphere of their lives. Hence, this paper advocates that every law that is inimical to protection of women from economic violence should be removed. Even though, Nigeria has domesticated the African Charter, so that one can indirectly enforce these rights, however its success is largely determined on the proactiveness of the Court. In view of this, the study is of the view that socio economic rights be constitutionalized like other jurisdiction for full realization of economic rights of women. Jurisdictions like, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa have made their socioeconomic rights justiciable, hence their 1996 Constitution has made rights to housing, health care, food, water, social security, education and environment justiciable[37]. This principle was endorsed in the case of *Soobramoney* v *Minister of Health*[38].Apart from the above impediment, the court in Nigeria is reluctant to be proactive in order to enhance the economic rights of women by giving liberal interpretative to the provisions of Chapter (ii) of the Constitution.[39]

Accordingly, the study notes that the review of the above section is apposite for gender gap in protecting the economic rights of women in Nigeria. It is interesting to note that, while lacking direct enforceability, Chapter (ii) serves as a moral and legal guide, obligating the government to strive for economic equality, fair labor practices and access to resources thereby setting standards for policy-making that can ultimately advance women's economic empowerment and rights. It is worthy to note that, Chapter(ii) provides principles like social justice, equality and the promotion

[34] The Constitution of Federal Rebulic of Nigeria 1999

[35] Ibid

[36] Ibid

[37] GS Pindano, Unisa Press Journals, https: //unisapressjournals.co.za accessed on 16/11/2025

[38] 1998(1) SA 765 (CC)

[39] 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

of economic welfare which form the basis for government actions and policies aimed at improving citizen's lives. It is worthy to note that specific sections within Chapter (ii) addresses economic issues, such as the state's duty to promote economic development, ensure fair distribution of resources and secure adequate opportunities for all. Hence, despite the lack of enforceability, these principles hold significant moral, economic and political weight. They provide a framework for accountability, guiding the government efforts to achieve economic equality and a better quality of life for women.

Furthermore, Chapter (ii) provides indirect impact by providing the foundational values upon which laws and policies are built[40]. Even though they are not directly enforceable, the principles in chapter (ii) can influence interpretations indirectly advances women's economic rights by promoting a vision of an inclusive and equitable society. The objections in chapter (ii) encompasses social inclusiveness with the aim of reducing socio-economic and political inequalities and ensuring opportunities for women to participate fully in the economy. In essence, while Chapter (ii) does not directly grant women legally enforceable economic rights it functions as a vital directive, obligating the state to create an environment where such rights can be progressively realized and women can achieve greater economic independence and empowerment. This paper, therefore urges the Nigerian Government to do the needful by creating enabling environment for women to participate in international business.

3.4 Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA)

CEMA is the principal legislation regulating importation and exportation of goods, collection of customs duties and administration of Nigeria's and Ports. By establishing clear procedure for the movement of goods, CEMA facilitates international trade, protects revenue and ensures compliance with global trade standards. Sec 3, empowers the Nigerian Customs Services to control and manage the import and export of goods[41]. While section 12 provides for power to regulate importation of specific goods for public interest, safety or economic reasons. While, Section27 to 33 designate approved Ports, Air Ports and route for entry and exist of goods. Sections 36 to 47 provides bonded ware houses where imported goods can be stored pending duty payments or re-export[42]. Warehousing supports trade facilitation re-export trade facilitation, re-export trade and industrial production by allowing goods to remain in duty payment, encouraging foreign investment and manufacturing.

Apart from CEMA, there are many domestic laws that regulate trade in Nigeria and they include, Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1995), Export (Incentives and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1986), Investment and Security Act (ISA) 2007, Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) Act, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) Act

[40] The Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999)

[41] Customs Exchange and Management Act (CEMA) 1959

[42] Ibid.

(1995) etc. However, for the purpose of this study we shall restrict our work to the ones we have discussed.

4.0 Theories

4.1 Liber al Theories

Adam Smith and David Ricardo liberal trade theories advocates for free trade. Arguing that removing barriers like tariffs boosts economic growth, efficiency and global welfare through specialization. It avers that there should be less government intervention, increased opportunity and positive sum outcome through practical application requires domestic policies to mitigate job loss and inequality. It encourages comparative advantage hence, countries should specialize in producing goods where they have a lower opportunity closer, leading to greater overall production and consumption[43].[441]The IMF and WTO promote liberalization and practically reduces restriction through agreement like FTAs. Though liberal trade theory sees free trade as a path to prosperity, but acknowledge that implementation needs careful management to address societal impact. It promotes non-discrimination thereby encouraging both men and women to have a fair playing ground to excel in business and make money[45]. Hence, global governance like WTO agreement are committed to trade liberation and Nigerian has been a member of the WTO since 1995 and it's trade liberalization has been engrafted in extent legal framework such a customs and Excise Management Act. Nigerian Export Promotion Act. In fact, Nigeria's tariff schedules aligned with WTO obligation making it easy for women to delve into trade and excel in trade because of non-restriction and removal of tariffs.

4.2Mercantilist/Neo Mercantilist:

This theory avers that trade should strengthen national power by engaging in import substitution and export promotion. It advocates for strategic trade policies. Hence, it encourages use of tariffs, subsidies and quotes and encourages that nation should engage in import ban such as rice textiles etc and engage in foreign exchange controls.

Mercantilism still defines attempts mercantilist assumption are significantly dependent upon how economic and security issues materially interact in a given time and space[46].[471] Specific combinations of material economic and security factors lead to different perceptions of their relative importance in each context this leading to varying degrees of belief in shared mercantilist assumption arising and being such as credible. It was Adam Smith in the 17th Century who coined

[43] http://www.exploring-economics.org accessed on 13/1/26

[44]

[45] Ibid

[46] T.V Conti, Mercantilism: A Materialist Approach, Scandinavian Economic History Review, 2018, Vol.66, No.2, 186-2026

[47]

the term "mercantilism to him, mercantilism was the economic form of nationalism where power as associated with economic form of nationalism, where power was associated with economic

development and well-being.[48] He however critiqued the mercantile theory that was prevalent at three district levels, firstly, it was exploitative and did not benefit the lead nation equally. Secondly, specialization did not disadvantage but rather improved the maker-economic structure and thirdly, the collusion of the government and mercantile classes.

Theories on women in trade suggest that while trade offers significant opportunities for women's economic empowerment, leading to better jobs, higher wages and increased independence, their participation is often hindered by systematic barriers like gender bias, unequal access to finance/information household responsibilities and weak integration into formal trade network; research including social network. Analysis and gender-sensitive policy frameworks, highlight that inclusive trade policies and targeted support are curial to move and truly leverage women's potentials for economic growth.

4.3 Institutionalism (Regime Theory)

Institutional theory propounded by Robert-Keohare and Joseph Nye aver those institutions create order predictability and cooperation in trade. Institutional theory explains international trade patterns and a firms internationalization strategies by emphasizing the role of the formal and informal social political and regulatory framework (institutions) that shape economic behavior. It suggests that the quality and nature of a country's institutions can be a source of country's institution comparative advantage influence transaction costs, and determine which countries benefit from trade. Studies show that the institutional environment not only mitigates or mediates the effects but also directs the effects on foreign direct investments internationalization process of location choice and entry strategies[49].[503]

Key institutions include WTO, World Bank, IMF, UNCTHD AF CF TA Secretariat. These bodies are engaged in rule making dispute settlement monitoring compliance.

4.4 Development State Theory

The state must actively guide trade and industrial development through strategic trade policy, state led industrialization and export inventory. Nigeria is bound by WTO rules ECOWAS trade liberalization schemes, AfcTA protocol. However, it requires harmonization of domestic laws. It challenges include conflict with obligations, weak domestic enforcement and capacity gap.

5.0 The Nexus and the Effect of Global Governance on Nigerian Legal System.

Global governance like WTO, agreement do not automatically enforce or become part of Nigerian law until they are domesticated by an Act of National Assembly. In fact, by virtue of Section 12(1) of the 1999 Constitution, no international law or treaty will be enforced, unless domesticated by an Act of National Assembly.

[48] Ibid

[49] World Bank, https;//ww.worldbank.org.

[50]

However, it is apposite to note that even though international governance such as WTO laws are not automatically enforced. Nigeria has aligned her laws to conform to WTO rules for effective trade governance, for instance, it has helped in trade expansion with respect to global economy. It has also enhanced policy reformation, dispute settlement, technical assistance and investment attraction.

5.1The Inclusion of Women in Global Trade

The integration of women in international trade is very critical because women are drivers of economy but there is need to engage them in value chain trade or businesses, for instance with respect to agriculture, women should be encouraged to engage in processing, branding, exportation and importation for more productivity. Apart from that, their inclusion will help achieve the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, aimed at alleviating poverty, promotion of equality and to ensure sustainable prosperity by 2030. In fact, inclusion of women in global trade directly contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals by promoting gender equality, economic growth, poverty reduction and social development. Hence, institution such as the world Trade Organizations, mainstreaming in trade through trade policy such as the WTO, UNCTAD promote gender mainstreaming in trade policy ensuring that women benefit from globalization and are represented in trade negotiation.

Numerous laws at the international, regional and domestic sphere affirm the need for their inclusion, for instance, WTO, through Marrakesh Agreement Principles encourages non-discrimination and equal opportunity in trade. Also, WTO, provides aid to trade initiative like access to financial incentives, skill in digital proficiency. Further, it encourages research and data collection. Furthermore, it encourages partnership with other agencies by expanding women's participation in global value chain businesses. Section 16 (1)(d) of the Constitution[51], is consistent with global governance principles that promote equality and inclusive growth. This aligns with SDG 5, which provides for gender equality, SDG8, which provides for decent work and economic growth and SDG 10, which provides for reduced inequalities.

Beyond trade participation, Section 16 (1) (d) supports the inclusion of women in economic and trade governance, that is integrating women in decision making role ministries, trade Organizations and Corporation boards. Such inclusion ensures that women's perspective influence national trade policies, thereby creating more balanced and equitable economic system. However, many barriers such as digital divide, lack of training, dearth of funds, obnoxious customary practices are inimical to women inclusion in global trade. With respect to traditional or customary practices that hinder women from inheriting their father's property, the Court in Mojekwu and Others v Ejikeme and Others[52], held that the repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience, hence it cannot be enforced in court. The Court referred to international norms like Convention on the Elimination of

[51] 1999 Constitution of the Federal Government of Nigeria

[52] (2000) 5NWLR 402

All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to strike down the customary practice against women. This case is a major step in protecting women from discriminatory inheritance customs. However,

despite the position of this case and similar cases, women still suffer discrimination with respect to inheritance to land or real estate that will boost their financial status.

6.0 Conclusion

The study revealed that global governance and Nigerian legal system have set the stage for women inclusion in global trade. However, despite the contribution of global governance and Nigerian legal system women are still under represented in global market due to so many barriers that hinder them. Such as, legal, socioeconomic and cultural hinderances include: non domestication of international laws or treaties, digital divide, lack of training in both formal and informal training, dearth of funds obnoxious customary and religious practices that hinder women from making impact in global economy. Hence, the need to advocate for their inclusion for more viable economy because their integration contributes to poverty reduction, sustainable development and balanced framework

6.1 Recommendation

The study makes the following recommendations:

(1) Domestication of relevant laws is critical for the enforcement of trade laws in Nigeria.
(2) Creation of awareness and advocacy on the need for women to engage in value trade businesses.
(3) Online training and reduction of digital divide is apposite
(4) Access to financial facilities and informal education is critical.
(5) Eradication of obnoxious customary and religious practices that hinder women such as child marriage, male preference is very cardinal in upholding women empowerment.