



**Opening Remarks by Ms Hopolang Phororo, ILO Director for ILO
Country Office for Zimbabwe and Namibia
Awards Ceremony of the *Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge*
15 March 2019
Harare, Zimbabwe**

1. Dear Minister, Dear Ambassador, ILO social partners in organised business and labour, emerging and established entrepreneurs, ILO colleagues, ladies and gentleman. Let me say a very “Good Morning” to all of you!
2. I am very excited to be here with all of you today, on this great journey towards supporting green entrepreneurship in Zimbabwe. I am reminded of the quote “The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step” by Lao Tzu. Six months ago, on 24 October 2018, we launched the Simuka-Phakama 2018 business competition and here we are now, with promotional tours and training of the potential contestants behind us and just, yesterday, the contestants made their pitches to the judges.
3. I will leave it at that and leave others to go into the details of the enterPRIZE challenge competition itself. Instead, I will share a few of my reflections about the importance of supporting green entrepreneurship in an era, where climate change is a reality and a threat that calls for sustainable development in all countries, including in Zimbabwe.
4. I would like to do this by touching on points highlighted in report on the Global Commission of the Future of Work and link the recommendations

made by the Commission to what we are seeking to achieve through the *Green enterPRIZE Innovation and Development Programme* in Zimbabwe.

5. The ILO Director General, Mr Guy Ryder, established the Global Commission on the FOW in 2016. The Commission was an independent group of experts from all over the world, who met several times during 2017 and 2018 to reflect on the future of work and to consolidate inputs received through national and regional consultations among our constituents. The report itself was launched on 22 January this year, an important year because the ILO turns 100 years, the oldest specialized UN agency!
6. Let me take the opportunity to also express the ILO's profound gratitude to the Government of Sweden, particularly to the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr Stefan Löfven, for his extra ordinary leadership in co-chairing the Global Commission with President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.
7. Now, why is the work of the Commission so important and how does it link to our gathering here today? Well, the World of Work is going through an unprecedented period of transformative change, and that change brings with it, of course opportunity, but also feelings of uncertainty and even fear.
8. Change is coming, not only from technology and the so-called 4th industrial revolution, although that is what is mostly talked about. But, it also comes from demographic changes, ageing populations in some countries, and growing youth populations in others, such as in Zimbabwe and across sub-Saharan Africa.

9. Change is also generated by the increasing uncertain forward march of globalization and - perhaps most importantly, in the context of why we are here today - change is coming from the actions we must take to combat climate change, particularly if we consider that climate change is provoked by human activity.
10. In light of these challenges, the Global Commission identified three pillars for a human centered agenda for the future of work, focusing on a) investing in people; b) investing in the institutions of work; and c) investing in decent and sustainable work and presented 10 recommendations.
11. I will not talk about all the 10 recommendations, rather I invite you to read the report, which is very informative and I will touch on the last two recommendations, which stress the need for 1) Transforming economies to promote decent and sustainable work; and 2) Shifting incentives towards a human centred business and economic model.
12. These two best encapsulate what this Green enterPRIZE challenge is all about. On the one hand, the challenge seeks to invest in human capabilities by building the managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities of entrepreneurs... for those of you that have made it through the eye of the needle and are here today, for the final awards ceremony.
13. On the other hand, we are also contributing to the transformation of the Zimbabwean economy by investing in a green economy and green entrepreneurship, which has the potential to advance an inclusive FOW and tackle environmental degradation and unsustainable ways of doing business.
14. The world needs innovative solution to reverse climate change. In this context, there are growing calls for alternative forms of business and new

models of economic growth, where the impact of the environment is also factored into the bottom line.

15. Enterprises are no longer assessed based only on traditional metrics but increasingly on the basis of their relationship with their workers, their customers and their communities, as well as their impact on society at large. We must no longer do business at the expense of the environment, rather we must conserve and preserve our environment.
16. With this Green enterPRIZE challenge, we are therefore also contributing to a larger global movement about how to also shift business incentive structures towards environmental sustainability, so that businesses - like the ones you aspire to grow - can result in your legitimate quest for profit, but at the same time, do good by creating jobs and protecting the environment.
17. Central to our debate is the essential need to set clearly the right narrative on how greener economies impact on jobs. Some people still believe that we must choose between economic growth and jobs on the one hand, and sustainability and environmental protection on the other hand.
18. We know that this is not the case. The story about a just transition to green economies is a positive story. It is not action against climate change and environmental degradation - but rather inaction - that will destroy jobs.
19. Whereas some jobs will be lost in the transition to green economies, the ILO's own projections indicate that the net impact would still be positive with 18 new million green jobs being created by 2030.
20. In conclusion, we are here today to honour and award the efforts that all of you make as green entrepreneurs, your efforts in spear heading the quest for a greener, cleaner and more sustainable Zimbabwe.

21. You are not alone, you are part of a bigger global movement towards more inclusive and sustainable business models, and we, the Government of Sweden, the national implementing partners and the ILO are here to support you as best we can along this journey.
22. May the best green business ideas win and I wish you the very best.

Thank you for your attention...