Achieving sustainable, productive green jobs through skills development, entrepreneurship promotion and responsible business practices

**Awards Ceremony: Simuka-Phakama 2018 Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge**

The Venue, Harare, 15 March 2019, 10:30hrs – 13:30hrs

**Media Statement**

The Simuka-Phakama 2018 Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge is creating a platform for green enterprise development and eco-innovation to thrive in Zimbabwe by empowering the citizens and businesses, particularly the youth and women, to become drivers of green and decent jobs creation. By facilitating their access to a tailored business development programme, supported by strategic alliances with business development service (BDS) providers and financial institutions, targeted emerging and established SMEs will expand their provision of green products and services and, as a long-term result, increase their business viability and contribution to the creation of green and decent jobs.

At the Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge Awards Ceremony on Friday 15 March 2019 in Harare, **27 winners and runners-up** out of the 250 competing businesses will finally be announced and awarded. Business development and support services will be delivered to the 27 winners and runners-up in the course of 12 months, by the ILO and a network of BDS providers and technical partners. In addition, 18 businesses across 9 categories will receive financial support. We are happy to announce that the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Honourable S. Nzenza, will be the Guest of Honour of the Awards Ceremony.

The Innovation Challenge is being run by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, the Employers’ Confederation of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions. This business competition is part of the Green enterPRIZE Innovation & Development Programme in Zimbabwe, supported by the Government of Sweden.

We look forward to sharing this event with representatives of the Media and encourage your coverage of the Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge Awards Ceremony as Zimbabwe goes green!