

ILO Green enterPRIZE Innovation and Development in Zimbabwe: 2017-2020

Awards Ceremony – 15 March 2019

Simuka-Phakama 2018 Green enterPRIZE Innovation Challenge

Salutations:

Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Honorable S. Nzenza

The Director of Small and Medium Enterprises from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development – Mr, David Nyakonda

ILO Country Director for Zimbabwe and Namibia Offices, Ms. Hopolang Phororo

Government representatives

Representatives from the Labour Organisations

Representatives from Employers

Business Service Providers implementing the project

Entrepreneurs here present

Ladies and gentlemen

As the Embassy of Sweden, we are honoured to once again come and witness the achievement of this milestone in the project that we are supporting.

It was not so long ago that we gathered here, in this very same venue, to witness the launch of the challenge in October last year. Today we are brought back again to witness the results.

We congratulate the ILO, its implementing partners and key stakeholders for the work done and achievements reached in this project so far. We are particularly amazed at the use of ICT to reach out to as many women and youth as possible with green enterprises across the country.

While a few will be selected for the prize, we note with satisfaction that for the first year of the awards, 90 participants were selected and went through business training which will be beneficial to them beyond this ceremony in greening their enterprises and working in a sustainable manner.

The selection process itself enabled a lot of the women and youth running enterprises to be mindful of the importance of taking care of the environment in their day-to-day activities. It also raised in them the awareness to become ambassadors in driving establishment of green and decent jobs.

Without pre-empting the work of the adjudicators in these awards and having just celebrated the International Women's Day last week under the theme *#BalanceforBetter*, it is our sincere hope as Sweden, that many women, young and old, participated in this challenge and were given equal opportunity to take part in the process. We are happy to see our feminist foreign and development policy reflected in the work that we support.

Congratulations to all the finalists, both winners and runners up. We wish them the best in the next step of the project.

I thank you all for listening.