



Clockwise from bottom left: Co-hosts of the Symposium Hon. Tapiwa Mashakada, Minister of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion and Mr. Alain Noudehou, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator delivering their Statements; (r-l) Moderator Mr. Conceicao, followed by panelists: Ms. Chikanya, Chief Economist at the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries; Mr. Mupunga, Regional Director of Practical Action; Ms. Chasi, Director General for the Environmental Management Agency; Dr. Sibanda, Permanent Secretary for Economic Planning and Investment Promotion; Ms. Njenga, Head of UN Environment Programme Office in South Africa; Mr. Hobwani, Chief Economist in the Ministry of Labour and Social Services; Participants following the panel discussion and deliberations.

The United Nations Country Team, in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe, hosted a UN Day Symposium, under the theme “Green Economy for Sustainable Development and Poverty

Reduction,” which brought together 250 delegates from Government, UN, diplomatic corps, development agencies, civil society, private sector and academia.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Co-hosted by the Honourable Minister of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.
- Featured a video message for Zimbabwe from the Director General of UNIDO, and Panel Discussions with contributions from the United Nations, Government, Civil Society and the Private Sector.
- Provided an opportunity to promote partnerships and raise awareness on the need and approaches to build a green economy in Zimbabwe with focus on sustainable energy and decent jobs.
- Common understanding that development should simultaneously seek to: achieve economic growth; promote social equity; and ensure environmental sustainability.

“ *The Government of Zimbabwe believes that building a green economy allows to better realize development objectives and accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.*

**Hon. Tapiwa Mashakada, Minister of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion**

*A green economy approach to development planning is fundamental. It is critical for our ability to generate growth, reduce poverty and inequalities and at the same time protect our environment for future generations.*

**Mr. Alain Noudehou, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator**



## A GREEN ECONOMY FOR ZIMBABWE

According to UNEP's working definition, a green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.

This development path for building a green economy should maintain, enhance, and where necessary, rebuild natural capital as a critical economic asset and source of public benefit, especially for poor people whose livelihoods and security depend strongly on nature.

Through the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2011-2015, the Government of Zimbabwe is working to: transform the economy, create jobs, maintain macroeconomic stability, restore the capacities to produce goods and services competitively; and ensure environmental sustainability and social benefits for all.

Building a Green Economy is critical for Zimbabwe to: **provide a sustainable means of livelihood** to an estimated 70% of its population who live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from agriculture; **increase access to sustainable energy** as only 37% of households in the country have access to reliable energy; and **generate decent and green jobs** to tackle high rates of unemployment particularly among the youth who represent over 50% of the population.

The UN in Zimbabwe is supporting these national efforts through the Zimbabwe UN Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF) for 2012-2015.

## OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED

The Government of Zimbabwe believes that **building a green economy allows to better realize development objectives** and accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Favourably, **Zimbabwe has institutional frameworks and environmental policies in place** which provide some good foundations for building a green economy, including on issues of energy and jobs.

**Zimbabwe has the opportunity to sharpen its regulatory framework in order to attract more resources.** Some major external financial opportunities are the: Green Climate Fund; Global Environment Facility; Climate Investment Fund; and Adaptation Fund. To date, with billions pledged, only 1% of available financing through grants and loans has been mobilised globally. Zimbabwe can also benefit from enhanced **South-South and Triangular Cooperation** to increase partnerships and access to good practices.

In a green economy, natural resources are a source of economic and social development. The UN Day Symposium identified four critical sectors that are "enablers" to build a green economy in Zimbabwe: being, **Mining, Manufacturing, Tourism and Agriculture.**

The next step is to devise efficient policies which will allow for these sectors to develop in such a manner that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

Mining and manufacturing are **not inconsistent with building a green economy** if undertaken in an environmentally sustainable manner and it leads to increased social benefits. Moreover, the **UN World Tourism Conference**, which will be co-hosted by Zimbabwe in 2013, **can serve as a launch pad for a green tourism sector.** On Agriculture, the potential to create employment and other social benefits through equitable and sustainable access to resources is vast.

## SYMPOSIUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Building a Green Economy needs to be **mainstreamed into the implementation of the 2011-2015 Medium Term Plan** to promote economic growth, environmental sustainability and social equity. The need to **establish strong national coordination, regulation and monitoring mechanisms** is key to ensure that green economy policies are adhered to and implemented.

Likewise, there is a need to continue to promote enabling policies and practices, such as **creating value addition to primary resources**, including **organic farming and product transformation**, to create jobs, anchor economic growth and protect the environment.

Promoting green jobs and green economy requires a **broad outlook on the entire value chain** as the greening transition could cause jobs to be lost in certain sectors while creating jobs in others. Added focus is required on **skills development for marginalised groups and curriculum development** which pays attention to the enabling sectors in order to tailor learning to the needs of Zimbabwe's green economic development. It is necessary for all development planning to **focus on rural areas**, without which, it will be impossible for Zimbabwe to build a green economy which is socially inclusive.

There is a need to **mainstream informal employment into the formal economy** as approximately 80 % of the labour force is currently engaged in the informal sector. This is important to appropriately regulate and generate revenue for enhancing public investment.

In order to provide energy to the rural poor and create decent jobs, there is a need to adopt innovative approach, such as through the **adoption of decentralized energy systems** (off grid and mini grid community based energy facilities), as well as through **skills and technology transfer** so that communities can manage energy schemes independently.

**Strong public investments in infrastructure and regulatory frameworks** are necessary to foster investment security and encourage the private sector to be a partner in building a green economy.

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