

UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2018

EMPRETEC at 30

Statement by Mukisha Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD

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AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Excellencies,
distinguished participants,
ladies and gentlemen.

- Promoting entrepreneurship in a country is a strategy that can support economic development objectives, business formalization, innovation, and inclusive and sustainable development. But, even more important for development, it creates and inspires people “who make things happen”.
- Entrepreneurship gives an economy its vitality. Entrepreneurs give rise to new products and services, find new and different applications for existing products and services, and create new business models.
- We are celebrating today the Empretec programme, a flagship entrepreneurship capacity building programme of UNCTAD. In its 30 years of existence, Empretec has demonstrated that entrepreneurship can be taught, based on its unique behavioural methodology that makes it different from other programmes on entrepreneurship promotion. In 1988, the first Entrepreneurship Training Workshop – which is Empretec’s core product – was organized in Argentina and rapidly expanded throughout Latin America and Africa, then the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation. Today, Empretec operates in more than 40 developing countries and economies in transition. Over 440,000 entrepreneurs have participated in more than 14,000 Entrepreneurship Training Workshops around the world.
- Over three decades the Empretec Programme has been making a significant impact on participants and their businesses. Its competencies-based approach has empowered entrepreneurs by building their personal and

behavioural skills needed to make their 'entrepreneur's journey' a success story. In order to encourage people to engage in self-employment and entrepreneurship, very often specific efforts are needed to raise their self-awareness and self-confidence. Empretec provides such a methodology, which has facilitated engagement in productive and revenue generating activities; enhanced networking skills and opportunities, helped to tap into local markets and developed cross border business links.

- Through partnerships with local institutions and the certification of Empretec national trainers, the cost of Empretec training is low, ensuring greater affordability and enhancing long term sustainable results. In addition, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, entrepreneurs trained by Empretec increasingly help to solve social and environmental issues as business opportunities are created for start-ups and potential entrepreneurs, especially among women and youth.
- The 30th anniversary is a significant milestone for a technical assistance programme which has succeeded not only in surviving, but continuing its steady growth over the years. All this would not have been possible without the dedication of Directors of national and regional Empretec centers, the staff, the continuous support of hosting institutions and development partners, as well the growing demand for entrepreneurship and business development. UNCTAD and its Empretec team in Geneva is proud to work with a global network of change makers, including entrepreneurs, trainers, advisors, policy makers, as well as many other stakeholders committed to the entrepreneurship promotion to facilitate sustainable and inclusive growth around the globe.
- With such a rich history of success, it is right to celebrate Empretec's Anniversary of 30 years today!