

Remarks by the Permanent Secretary for Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Mr Simon Masanga at the Rollout of the Zimbabwe National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1)- Integrating the 2030 Agenda Workshop

Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls

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The United Nations Resident Coordinator Ad Interim, Dr Alex Gasasira,

Chief Directors,

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs representatives, Mr Amson Sibanda- Chief National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, and Ms Carol Pollack-Senior Inter-Regional Advisor,

All Senior Government Officials here present,

Representatives from NGOs and Civil Society Organisations,

United Nations representatives,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great honour to be part of this important workshop on the Rollout of the National Development Strategy 1 -Integrating the 2030 Agenda. As we are in our first year of implementing the

National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1) which coincided with the commencement of the Decade of Action and Delivery as declared by the United Nations Secretary General, it is vital that we reflect on the effectiveness of processes and institutions that are driving the implementation of these development agendas at global, regional and local levels hence the convening of this workshop.

In our pursuit to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with now less than a decade left to reach 2030, it is important that we interrogate how governments and other key stakeholders function, and how they influence policy and engagement since these are key in the implementation of Agenda 2030. It is needless to overemphasize the necessity to continuously improve our scarce resource allocation and utilisation in a manner that increases economic productivity and general standards of living of our people while we protect the environment as we are focused on achieving the SDGs an 'Empowered upper middle income status by 2030'.

With the emergence of the global economy, advancement in technology, increased societal demands, and the need for the provision of more comprehensive social services against fewer resources collaborative action of all stakeholders is required if we are determined in achieving the SDGs.

It is important to note that all world systems, with Zimbabwe not being an exception, have learnt the hard way through the advent of the global pandemic which has destabilized economies and added more complexities that threaten the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our country was hit by the pandemic at a critical time when we were still trying to navigate ourselves out of economic challenges that have been limiting progress for more than two decades. The pandemic reversed most of the progress we had made in a number of SDGs that include SDG 3 on quality health and wellbeing, SDG 4 on quality and inclusive education, and SDG 5 on gender equality among others. However, the pandemic has been a wakeup call and brought along a new mindset that necessitated the need for new

bold policy interventions, coupled with visionary leadership which strengthens the coordination and attainment of SDGs which we aim to achieve by implementing the National Development Strategy 1.

The developmental trajectory that our country has embarked on through the implementation of the Vision 2030 and the NDS 1 if supported by adequate resource allocation and commitment at all levels among stakeholders will surely enable us to attain most of the SDGs by the year 2030. We are aware that some acceleration actions should be prioritised so that we maintain our momentum and direction towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Ladies and gentlemen, through the **Vision 2030 and National Development Strategy 1(NDS 1)** which are not just bold statements but a Call and Demand for Action from every stakeholder we will win together. The greatest key to achieve SDGs can only be our concerted efforts toward the attainment of these global goals as outlined by the principle of leaving no one behind. As the 2030 Agenda is about **People**,

Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships, focusing on these five Ps will enable us to attain a well-balanced growth as living standards are enhanced in a more sustainable manner while caring for the environment as we preserve our only planet earth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda has been incorporated and internalised into the **Vision 2030** and **the National Development Strategy 1(NDS 1)** that were established on broad citizenry participation aimed at ensuring that no one is left behind in our development agenda. Citizenry participation as base and anchor of development planning has facilitated increased budgetary support for investment initiatives and expenditure in areas such as social protection, agriculture, infrastructure, health, and education, to name just a few. The rolling out of the NDS 1 has gathered serious traction and speed as evidenced by translation of the national development plan into official languages including braille and the effective dissemination that has covered those

furthest left behind such as rural communities as the country is implementing the **Whole of Government** and **Whole of Society** approach in national development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Current public policy models are certainly a reflection of a shift from traditional thinking to focus more on issues of accelerated economic growth, sustainability, value addition and climate change among other factors. Additionally, enough confirmation of bold and visionary leadership is evidenced in public sector transformation that is manifest in the metamorphosing of structures and processes that support development from grassroots level. The devolution agenda will go a long way in improving the livelihoods of communities as they will benefit from local resources thereby improving standards of living for all and accelerating the attainment of SDGs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we are gathered here today, and the rest of the week let us put our heads together and come up with workable recommendations that will enable us to align our limited resources and actions towards a common goal of achieving the SDGs and Vision 2030. The prime issue of any government with respect to the SDGs is how to align policies in practice given the breadth and complexity of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, and the need to include an unprecedented range of public and private actors in both policy formulation and implementation. This necessitated careful and sensitive negotiation in order to ensure an inclusive process that emphasize key stakeholders' participation both within and beyond government.

Ladies and gentlemen, I implore you to think outside the box and find modalities and ways on how the integration of the NDS 1 and 2030 Agenda can be strengthened so that we will attain the SDGs. Let us all continue to work together in building our nation. We all have a role to play. The time for you to play your part is now.

Having said all this, ladies and gentlemen, I declare this workshop opened.

Thank you