



**OPENING SPEECH BY MR. DAVID HAMMOND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON CHILD LABOUR ON  
TOBACCO FARMS  
HOLIDAY INN, HARARE, ZIMBABWE  
TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2018**

Recognizing:

- The Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.
- Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
- Government of Zimbabwe and representatives
- Development Partners and United Nations representatives present
- Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions
- Zimbabwe Federation of Trade Unions
- Employers Confederation of Zimbabwe
- Tobacco Industry Marketing Board
- Civil Society,
- Company and private representatives
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies, Gentlemen,

[ALL PROTOCOLS OBSERVED}

It is with absolute pleasure that I am here today for my **first visit** to Zimbabwe.

It is also my pleasure to take part in **today's critical and timely multi-stakeholder discussion** on child labour in tobacco agriculture in Zimbabwe.



On behalf of the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco-Growing (ECLT), of which I am the Executive Director, I **welcome the opportunity to be able to contribute to this important dialogue**, and to join the key national stakeholders represented here today **to help identify and facilitate the driving-up of standards** for child welfare in tobacco-growing areas.

**Today is not about problems**, but more importantly, coming together for solutions. Solutions needed to ultimately reduce levels of child labour in the very communities we have come here today to discuss.

We are **proud to be an emerging partner** with the Government of Zimbabwe in this endeavour.

As you may already be aware, the ECLT Foundation is an independent Swiss Foundation based in Geneva Switzerland, operating as a **global leader in preventing child labour in tobacco agriculture**, and protecting and improving the lives of children wherever tobacco is grown.

For **over 17 years**, we have been committed to addressing the root causes of child labour, impacting more than 650,000 children and families in over 10 countries where tobacco is grown. We are very pleased that the ILO acts as our key technical advisor.

Much has been achieved, but **much work still remains**.



Child labour in tobacco agriculture is a **complex issue**, and one which should **not just be reserved for being addressed by the tobacco industry**, but one which intimately touches on surrounding and complementary crops that are being **grown in the same communities**, on the same farmland, and tended by the very same growers, all of whom are **attempting to make a legitimate living and a better life for the next generation**.

As we will hear throughout today's discussions, there is still much ground to be covered in this fight, but as I look around the room, **we are very well positioned to create new blueprints for designing good practices** and achieving the desired impact we all want to see for the children and families impacted by child labour, both in tobacco growing, and throughout the numerous agricultural communities represented within Zimbabwe.

At the ECLT Foundation, we **pride ourselves on supporting collective and collegiate approaches to addressing root cause of child labour** in the countries in which we operate around the World.

**With 17 years' experience**, a dedicated and highly experienced team from six countries, speaking eleven languages and spanning numerous development sector disciplines, our Foundation is able to stand alongside you to ensure that we work efficiently, effectively and have genuine impact in the lives of Zimbabwean children in tobacco-growing communities.



We look forward to forthcoming engagement and **assisting the Government in developing sustainable actions** which go some way to addressing root causes of child labour and progressively eliminating the issue.

ENDS.

### **Biographical Notes**

#### **David Hammond**

Executive Director

David Hammond is an experienced senior executive, English barrister (non-practising), former naval helicopter pilot and third sector CEO. He has extensive experience spanning 27 years in complex environments working cross-government with and alongside State and non-State actors in leadership, legal and transformational roles. David holds a BSc (Hons) and a Graduate Diploma in Law. He is a member of The Honourable Society of Middle Temple, the Institute of Directors in London and is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (UK). He is also a Trustee of the independent maritime human rights charity, Human Rights at Sea.

ENDS.