

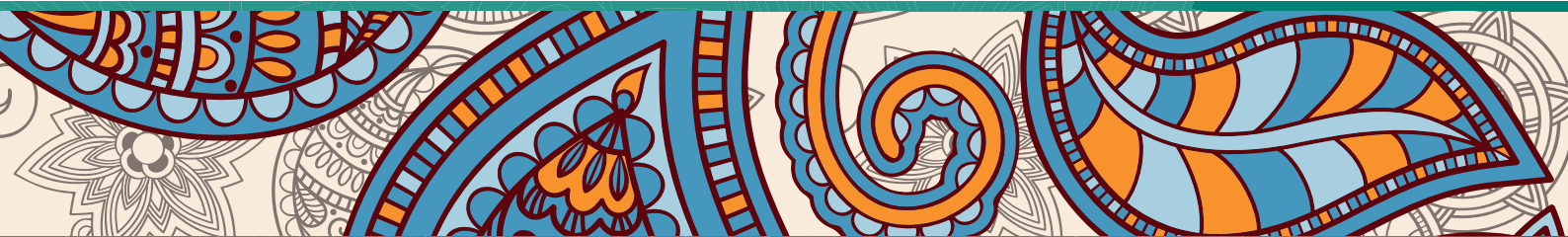
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

**UNCTAD**



# 2018 Empretec

Women in Business Awards



UNITED NATIONS



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This publication has not been formally edited.

## *Acknowledgements*

This publication is prepared by UNCTAD, by a team composed of Alejandro Rubias Hernandez, Lorenzo Tosini, Fulvia Farinelli, Philippe Rudaz, Marko Stanovic, and Peter Navarrette under the direction of Fiorina Mugione and the supervision of Tatiana Krylova. James Zhan provided overall guidance. Constructive commentary and inputs have come from Natalia Guerra and Johanna Tiipanna.

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# Preface

The 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover a broad spectrum of sustainability areas such as poverty eradication, health, education, climate change and environmental degradation, and can generate opportunities for women entrepreneurs. At the same time, innovations, especially in digital and information and communications technologies (ICTs), are rapidly affecting the quality and quantity of jobs, offering new opportunities and challenges for women entrepreneurs. This includes women-owned businesses leveraging technology to move up the global and regional value chains, entering and progressing in non-traditional areas. Artificial intelligence and machine-learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3-D printing, and genetics and biotechnology, will cause widespread disruption not only to business models but also to labour markets over the next five years, with enormous changes predicted in the skill sets needed. At the same time, ICTs also opened the door to small businesses, and individuals to participate directly in globalization.

According to a recent research by 99 designs of over 3,000 businesses worldwide, women entrepreneurs still face challenges in raising capital, hiring employees, and in work life balance. Women purchase 80% of the world's goods, provide two-thirds of the world's labour, hold 10% of the world's wealth - and just 1% of the property rights, with women-owned businesses winning less than 1% of procurement contracts from governments and business. To raise awareness of this economic gender gap and to support women's entrepreneurship, in 2008, UNCTAD initiated the Empretec Women in Business Awards. This year, more than 50 nominations from 20 countries were received. The finalists were selected by a panel of distinguished experts in entrepreneurship on the basis of three criteria: innovation, leadership and impact in the community.

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All the finalists have put their expertise and passion in the business. They have overcome obstacles and persevered to establish and grow successful companies, creating jobs and giving back to their communities, spearheading cultural changes and serving as role models. They come from countries across Africa, Latin America and Middle East, and work in a variety of sectors ranging from education to garment manufacturing, construction, fashion and cultural industries, and agribusinesses. A common thread of all finalists this year is the inclusive business models that they have adopted, with clear links to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). They all have a sense of purpose, and to different degrees embraced social entrepreneurship. Balancing motherhood and their careers, they have also accomplished the right work life balance, taking full advantage of the flexibility and independence gained in running their own businesses.

UNCTAD's Empretec Women in Business Awards will be presented at the World Investment Forum, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25 October 2018.

### **The Empretec Team**



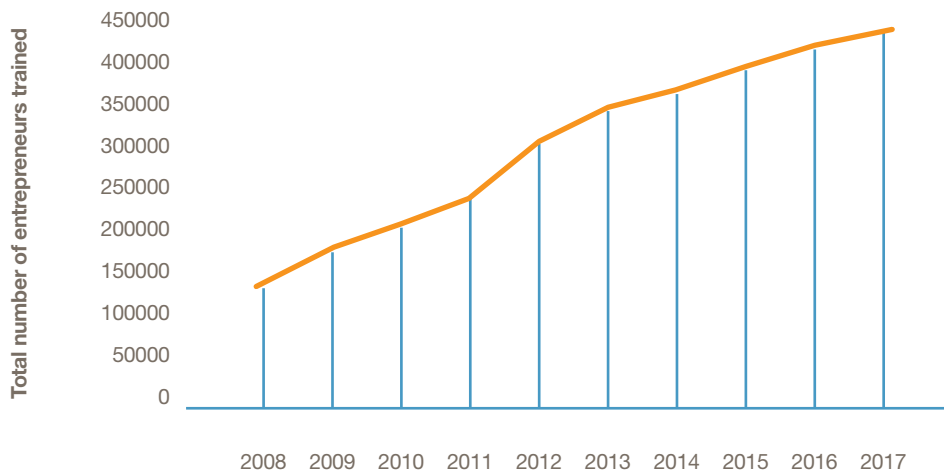
# About Empretec and the Women in Business Award

## Empretec

Empretec is UNCTAD's flagship capacity-building programme coordinated from Geneva, Switzerland, by the Enterprise Branch of the Division of Investment and Enterprise.

The programme aims to promote entrepreneurship and to enhance the productive capacity and international competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries and economies in transition. The Empretec Programme is implemented through its National Centres, established in 40 countries. Since its inception in 1988, Empretec has successfully trained over 440,000 people, helping them to found or expand businesses, creating thousands of jobs in the process. Empretec's core product, the Entrepreneurship Training Workshop (ETW), promotes a methodology of behavioural change that helps entrepreneurs put their ideas into action and aids fledgling businesses to grow.

**The Empretec network tops 442,000**



## The Empretec Women in Business Award

Women run between a third and a quarter of all enterprises worldwide, according to the World Bank. For many women in developing countries, their own enterprises are their major source of income. For their ventures to succeed, it is crucial that these women receive adequate training, encouragement and recognition.

UNCTAD created the Empretec Women in Business Award as an acknowledgment of the great achievements of women entrepreneurs trained by the Empretec programme. The award, granted every two years, has made a real impact on the lives of past recipients. It has improved their access to education and resources, and boosted their motivation to continue growing their enterprises. It has also helped these women become role models in their communities. Recipients excelled in developing innovative business ideas, providing jobs and increasing incomes in their communities.

The first series of awards was launched on the occasion of the UNCTAD XII Ministerial Conference in Accra, Ghana, in 2008. The second series of awards was presented in April 2010 at the annual session of UNCTAD's Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission in Geneva, Switzerland. The 2012 awards took place in Doha, Qatar, during UNCTAD XIII and the World Investment Forum, the 2014 edition took place in Geneva during the World Investment Forum, and the 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, during UNCTAD XIV.



*Ms. Tran Thi Viet (Viet Nam), winner of the Empretec Women in Business Award 2016*



# The Empretec Women in Business Awards Ceremony 2018

*At this celebration of remarkable women entrepreneurs, the Women in Business Award 2018 is also empowering the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs to start their journey of positive social impact.*

Young people are passionate about social equality. They want strong role models to show them how to achieve this. The Empretec Women in Business Awards provide this opportunity for young people to be inspired by the achievements of women entrepreneurs from developing countries. To engage them in celebrating the vital role that women and entrepreneurship play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, UNCTAD invited children and youth (ages 8 -18 years) to share their creative interpretations at the 2018 event. In preparation to the Ceremony, through posters, short films and performances, young people are sharing their support for women globally by expressing their hopes and solutions. Focusing on selected SDGs which play a significant role in empowering women and girls, young people from several countries submitted their innovative ideas for solutions which address challenges in Gender Equality, Climate Action, Education and Water & Sanitation.





## Performing at the Empretec Women in Business Awards 2018, a rising star, the singer Ms. Stacey King.

*To be a woman is an endless struggle. To find one's way and never give up despite the trials of life requires an unimaginable will. I am a woman and I can recognize myself in each woman entrepreneur. For my part, only the faith in what I am, in what I believe, was my only guide.*

Of West African origin but born in Belgium, Stacey has lived several years in Germany and the Netherlands before establishing her base in Paris. She graduated in Political Science at the Sorbonne and started a career in banking, working in several development projects in Africa. Her passion for music has been always there and finally she recorded several albums as a chorister. It is the providential encounter with Roger Sanchez (known for his remixes of artists like Madonna, Janet Jackson or Jamiroquai) that made possible the recording of her first single – “Just Leave Me”. Thanks to this title, Stacey King knows the success and travels around the world. Since then, she has been living of her music and performing concerts at events with different orchestras in France and Switzerland; featuring with various DJs as well as building her personal projects. Revealed in 2014 on the show “The Voice «France, Stacey King has won the hearts of the wider public with her fascinating voice and undeniable charisma, reaching the semi-final. She returns to the front stage in 2018 with an album representing a collection of great classics of the French Musical Heritage. Stacey King is currently starring in the musical Priscilla, Queen of the Desert in the role of Diva, which was awarded Best Musical of the Year by The Parisian and the 2018 Crystal Globes.

