



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2017 Meeting Convened Under the Auspices of ECOSOC
New York, 10 - 19 July 2017

SEED Side Event Innovative and Eco-Inclusive Entrepreneurship, the SMEs in support to SDGs delivery

*a SEED side event co-organized by South Africa and
Germany, in partnership with UN Environment, UNDP
and IUCN (SEED Founding Partners), and
PAGE/Partnership for Action on Green Economy;*



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SEED
promoting entrepreneurship
for sustainable development



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz,
Bau und Reaktorsicherheit



13 July 2017, 18.15-19.30; Conference Room A

Requesting partners

- South Africa, Department of Environmental Affairs
- Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

In collaboration with:

UN Environment/UNEP, United Nations Development Programme/UNDP, International Union for the Conservation of Nature/IUCN (SEED Founding Partners), together with Partnership for Action on Green Economy/PAGE;

Organizing partner

SEED, Promoting Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, a partnership launched in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN;

Objectives of the side event and contribution to the 2017 HLPF theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”;

The main objective of the side event will be to highlight the vital importance of the Small and Medium Enterprises in delivering sustainability, alleviating poverty, generating local income and jobs, using more efficiently local resources, while identifying realistic and accessible solutions and unlocking opportunities through partnerships, in response to local, community, regional and national social, environmental and economic challenges.

At a time when the global community is looking for practical and “down-to-earth” approaches for effectively delivering sustainability, it is of critical importance to pay due attention to and associate the Small and Medium Enterprises in the sustainability process, in particular through the implementation of the SDGs.

During this event, we advocate for and demonstrate to what extent the SMEs, in particular the innovative eco-inclusive enterprises, bring in the solutions the global community is looking for, solutions in reply to local challenges and that had been tested in various countries;

We aim with this side event to better mainstream SEED eco-inclusive enterprise approach into the global platform of opportunities and solutions in support to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its SDGs; and to demonstrate how such innovative eco-inclusive enterprises can contribute to the badly needed transformative change towards sustainability while delivering the SDGs and their various targets.

By identifying, developing and applying innovative solutions (SDG 9), these SMEs provide local jobs, in particular to women (SDG 5), manage locally produced wastes and reduce emissions (SDG 9), use local resources in a more responsible manner in particular for improved food security (SDG 2), in particular with regards to energy, alternative energy, water and materials, generates income to local communities while contributing to regional and national development by accessing to the market with their innovative products.

Facilitation and speakers

Facilitator

- Arab Hoballah, Executive Director, SEED

Speakers

- Mr. Zaheer Fakir, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa
- Mr. Stephan Contius, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany
- Mr. Tim Scott, UNDP
- Mr. Geoff Green, Green Acre Living, South Africa, 2016 SEED winner
- Mr. Ricardo Oquendo Velásquez, Proplanet, Colombia, 2014 SEED winner

Welcoming words by Mr. Elliott Harris, UN Assistant Secretary General and Director of NY UN Environment Office;
