

DRAFT Programme

International Symposium on the Role of Micro-, Small- and Medium- Enterprises (MSMEs) in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

7-8 June 2018

DAY 1: Thursday 7 June 2018

10:00 –10:30 **OPENING CEREMONY**

Moderator: Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (UN-DESA/DSDG)

- *Welcome remarks: Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UN Chief Economist*
- *Message from Mr. Martin Garcia Moritan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations*
- *Message from Mr. Teodoro Lopez Locsin Jr, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations*

10:30- - 12.00 **Session I Growth of MSMEs internationally: global trends, opportunities and challenges**

This session would present international perspectives on global trends, opportunities and challenges for MSME growth. It would examine the impact of MSMEs on a range of SDGs, and highlight good practices internationally for MSME policy development and the achievement of the SDGs.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Somdy Inmyxai, Director-General, SME Promotion and Development Office (SMEPDO), Ministry of Industry and Trade, Laos

- *Mr. Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Special Representative to the UN and Director, ILO*
- *Mr. Paul Maseli, Director and Representative of UNIDO to the UN*
- *Mr. Javier Cortes, Head, Local Networks-Americas at the UN Global Compact*
- *Ms. Kristin Schreiber, Director for COSME Programme and SME Policy, European Commission*
- *Ms. Sandrine Kergroach, Senior Economist, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. OECD*
- *Ms. Olga Solleder, Economist, International Trade Centre (ITC)*

Plenary discussion

12:00 – 13:00 **Session II Policy Environment for MSME Growth**

This session would explore how coherent policy environments can provide an enabling framework for sustainable MSME growth, addressing issues such as formalization of MSMEs, compliance with labour laws and regulations on export and taxation. It would also explore policy space and pathways to integrate MSMEs within regional and global value chains through trade facilitation and standardized certification mechanisms.

Panel discussion 1

Moderator: Mr. Ayman Tarabishy, Executive Director, International Council for Small Business

- *Mr. Fu Wenbiao, Director-General, Development Research Centre, State Administration for Market Regulation, China*
- *Mr. Nizar Midrei, Director, Department of Support Micro and Small Enterprises, Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Brazil*
- *Mr. Somdy Inmyxai, Director-General, SME Promotion and Development Office (SMEPDO), Ministry of Industry and Trade, Laos*
- *Mr. Rabi Chand, Chief Executive Officer, National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprise Development (NCSMED), Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MITT), Fiji*

Plenary discussion

13:00 – 15:00 *Lunch Break*

15:00 – 16:00 **Session II Policy Environment for MSME Growth (contd)**

Panel discussion 2

Moderator: Ms. Iris Jin, Senior Programme Manager, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada

- *Mr. Gamini Senevirathna, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Project Management and Southern Development, Sri-Lanka*
- *Ms. Blesila Lantayona, Assistant Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Philippines*
- *Mr. Tlou Nong, Deputy Director, International Cooperation, Trade and Export Promotion, Department of Small Business Development, South Africa*
- *Ms. Abi Alawode, CEO, Rhabe Ventures Limited, Nigeria*

Plenary discussion

16:00 – 18:00 **Session III MSME Growth and Access to Finance**

Formal and informal MSMEs are often perceived by commercial financing institutions as high-risk borrowers due to limited access to collateral. This has many consequences including higher costs in terms of fees and loan interest rates. National governments and international organizations have tried to promote innovative credit and loan guarantee mechanisms to bridge the gap. This session would examine value chain financing, and MSME entrepreneurship in expanding access to additional financial resources. It would also present innovative tools and approaches in expanding access of MSMEs to financial resources.

Panel discussion

Moderator: Ms. Christina Rokoua, Manager, Policy and Research at the Reserve Bank of Fiji

- *Mr. Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Financing Forum, International Financing Corporation (IFC)*
- *Ms. Jennifer McDonald, Head of MSME Work, Women's World Banking*
- *Mr. Ayman El Tarabishy, Executive Director, International Council on Small Business (ICSB)*
- *Ms. Miriam Bruhn, Senior Economist, Development Research Group, the World Bank*
- *Ms. Christina Rokoua, Manager, Policy and Research at the Reserve Bank of Fiji*
- *Mr. Marco Aletti, Associate Programme Officer, International Trade Centre (ITC)*
- *Ms. Cecilia Chapiro, Project Coordinator, Emerging Technologies, UNICEF Innovation*

Plenary Discussion

DAY 2: Friday 8 June 2018

10:00 – 12:00 **Session IV: Innovations and Inclusive MSME Growth**

Science, Technology and Innovation have made immense contributions to MSMEs growth and the achievement of SDGs. Innovations come from MSMEs in both developed and developing countries. MSME entrepreneurs possess a wealth of knowledge and have solutions for development of their communities. They contain the power to transform innovations into replicable development solutions. This session would explore how synergies of innovation and MSME growth would jointly promote inclusive growth benefiting poor and vulnerable groups, particularly, women and youth.

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Chief, Policy and Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

- *Mr. Agnaldo De Almeida Dantas, Analyst, Access to Innovation, Technology and Sustainability Unit, SEBRAE- Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service*
- *Mr. Simon Irege Charles, Department of Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Tanzania*
- *Dr. Iris Jin, Senior Programme Manager, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada*
- *Prof. Zeng Xianlai, Tsinghua University, China*

- *Ms. Olga Memedovic, Deputy Director, Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation, UNIDO*
- *Ms. Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative to the UN*
- *Ms. Anna Falth, Programme Manager, UN Women*

Plenary Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Rapporteurs' Presentations on Key Messages to HLPF

13:00 – 15:00 *Lunch Break*

15:00 – 18 00 Presentation of country experiences: good practices and challenges

Project pilot countries will present their experiences, including gaps, challenges and selected good practices on MSME growth for achieving the SDGs. These countries are Brazil, Cambodia, Fiji, Kenya, Laos, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.