Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day 2019

Thursday 27 June 2019, 10.00 – 17.30
Venue: UN Headquarters, Economic and Social Council Chamber

Background

The UN General Assembly adopted resolution 71/279 on 6 April 2017, which designated 27 June as Micro-, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day (MSME Day). The UN system, international and regional organizations, private business, civil society, NGOs, academia and individuals observe the day to raise awareness of the contribution of MSMEs to sustainable development.

Accounting for more than 90% of businesses and 60%-70% of employment worldwide, MSMEs play a pivotal role in stimulating economic growth, creating decent jobs and trade, and are a key vehicle for poverty eradication and improved livelihoods.

Partners around the world will celebrate the importance of MSMEs on 27 June through events and outreach, including social media, linking MSMEs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event will be built around the broader theme *Unlocking the Potential of MSMEs to Achieve the SDGs.*

Objectives

1. Raise awareness about the role of micro, small and medium enterprises in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Feed into the global debate on MSMEs, sustainable development and financing for development.
3. Provide thought leadership, recommendations and practical tools that lead to better policies, support and finance for MSMEs, from public and private sector perspectives.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Council for Small Business (ICSB) and the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), have organized this event to celebrate MSMEs and to discuss how best to unlock the potential of MSMEs to contribute to the SDGs.

The full-day event will take place at UN Headquarters and will take the form of a series of panel discussions addressing 4 main topics:

1. Financing MSMEs
2. Capacity building, knowledge, education and innovation
3. MSMEs and the future of work
4. Building ecosystems and policies to support MSMEs
Event Format

Full-day, conference-style event, with a series of panel discussions.
Note: Speakers to be confirmed.

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| 10.00 – 11.00 | Opening session                        | Opening remarks Launch of 2 publications:  
• ITC’s SME Competitiveness Outlook  
• ICSB’s Global SME Report |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | Financing MSMEs                        | A session dedicated to addressing the financing gap for SMEs, and how this links to the investment needed for the SDGs. Mechanisms, initiatives, successes and areas for improvement |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Capacity building, knowledge, education and innovation | Improving the skills and capabilities of MSMEs in diverse sectors to meet the demands of dynamic markets. Promoting capacity building for inclusive entrepreneurship and the critical role of youth entrepreneurs. |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Entrepreneurs Experiences              | Interaction between diverse entrepreneurs about successes, challenges, opportunities and ambitions, |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | MSMEs and the future of work           | Role of MSMEs and entrepreneurship in addressing challenges and opportunities of decent work in the digital age |
| 16.00 – 17.00 | Building ecosystems and policies to support MSMEs and the SDGs | Focus on the network of institutions, policies and support systems to help MSMEs grow and thrive. |
| 17.00 – 17.30 | Closing                                | Remarks by hosts                                                                                                                                 |

Audience

The target audience is representatives of Member States, companies, key international organization partners (e.g. ILO, International Chamber of Commerce), business associations, academic institutions, media, entrepreneurs, incubators and financial institutions.

In addition to the physical audience, the event will be live streamed via UN Web TV.
Note: The working language of the event is English.