



2012 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review

Regional Preparatory meeting for Africa

**“Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as
drivers of productive capacity and job
creation”**

FINAL PROGRAMME

Date: Sunday, 25 March 2012

Location: Small Conference Room 2, African Union Commission
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

25 March 2012

08:00 a.m. Registration for security badges at UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Opening Session and Key note

09:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie**, Director, Economic Development and NEPAD Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz, Vice-President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Key note speech: H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shide Mohammed, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Ethiopia

Session I: Strengthening the enabling environment for successful SME development

SMEs represent the majority of businesses in most countries, and the development of new firms plays an important role in job creation. This session will focus on what governments, social partners and the private sector can do to create an environment that stimulates entrepreneurship and enables SME development. The discussion will cover a range of policies and strategies for improving the enabling environment, including through access to finance, regulatory and legal frameworks, improved infrastructure and human resource development.

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Chair: Mr. Thomas Stelzer**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Alhaji Sanusi Maijama'a Ajiya**, Second Vice President, Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Ghana
- **Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations
- **Mr. Godfrey Selematsela**, Deputy President, FEDUSA, South Africa

For Discussion

- What policies should governments put in place to promote entrepreneurship and an environment conducive to the establishment and growth of SMEs?

What roles can social partners, the private sector and civil society best play to contribute to SME creation?

- What can be done to increase access to financing, including sources such as risk capital, for innovative and potentially high-growth SMEs in the region?
- How can SMEs be integrated more successfully into local and external (regional and global) value chains and networks?

Session II: Promoting productive, job-rich SME development in a context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable growth

SMEs are important drivers of productivity, job creation and growth in the economy, but they also face major challenges in accessing external sources of information, knowledge and technologies in order to build capacities and reach markets. This session will identify the principal requirements for enhancing the productivity and job creation potential of SMEs, as well as linking them to a more inclusive growth path in African countries.

11:15 a.m. –
12:45 p.m.

Chair: H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz, Vice-President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, New York

Panelists:

- **Dr. Talaat Abdel-Malek**, Economic Adviser to the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of Egypt and Chair of the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness
- **Mr. Kako Nubukpo**, Professor of Economics, University of Lomé
- **Mr. Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre

Discussants:

- **Mr. George M. Muchai**, Deputy Secretary General, COTU-Kenya
- **Mr. Floribert Ngaruko**, Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Expert, African Development Bank

For Discussion

- What strategies for creating more and better jobs through SME development have proven successful in the region?
- What can be done to promote entrepreneurship and reduce barriers for SME development among women, young people and marginalized groups in the region?
- What are some of the most recent innovations in education and training and social protection that have promoted entrepreneurship and reduced barriers for SME development in the region?
- Given that SMEs can be a major source of innovation and productivity growth, what role are they currently playing and/or should they play in the transition to greener, more sustainable economies?

12:45 p.m. – Lunch Break
01:45 p.m.

Session III: Country Experiences and Best Practices

In this session, stakeholders from the region will make presentations based on country experiences, best practices and new initiatives or proposals pertaining to successful SME development.

01:45 p.m. – **Chair: H.E. Mr. Jameleddine Gharbi**, Minister of Regional Development and
03:15 p.m. Planning, Tunisia

Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Renzo Rosso**, Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia
- **Ms. Nabila Sahnoune**, Director of Analysis, Ministry of Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the Promotion of Investment, Algeria
- **Mr. Andreas Klemmer**, Senior Enterprise Development Specialist, ILO Pretoria Decent Work Team for Southern and Eastern Africa
- **Mr. Chimimba David Phiri**, Chief, Policy Assistance Support Service, Technical Cooperation Department, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Discussant:

- **Ms. Akila Belembaogo**, Head of Liaison Office and Representative to the African Union and Economic Commission for Africa, UNICEF

Discussion

03:15 p.m. – Coffee Break
03:30 p.m.

Session IV: Key Policy Messages for the 2012 ECOSOC AMR

This session is intended to formulate key policy messages that emerged during the meeting for transmission to the 2012 Annual Ministerial Review of the UN Economic and Social Council. It will determine key next steps required for an improved regional approach to SME development, with the involvement of Governments, regional and multilateral institutions, international partners and other stakeholders.

03:30 p.m. – **Chair: H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz**, Vice-President, UN ECOSOC, Permanent
04:45 p.m. Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, New York

Panelists:

- **Mr. Wiseman Lumkile Nkhuhlu**, President, International Organization of Employers
- **Ms. Helena Okiring**, Youth Leader, Uganda

Closing remarks:

04:45 p.m. –
05:00 p.m.

H.E. Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz, Vice-President, UN ECOSOC, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination and Inter-Agency Affairs , UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)