

Investing in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises for achieving the SDGs

2019 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development

Wednesday, April 17th 2019, 8.00 –9.30

Conference Room 5, United Nations

Headquarters, New York



INVITATION

Join us for a panel discussion on the importance of financial inclusion of micro, small and medium enterprises for the achievement of the SDGs and on how to fill the “investment gap”. The panel includes stakeholders from the investment community, institutions and representatives of micro, small and medium enterprises. Examples of successful case studies will enrich the discussion with ideas and solutions.

RSVP on EventBrite: <https://msmesforthesdgs.eventbrite.com> by **Friday 12 April**.

Opening remarks

- Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director, International Trade Centre

Moderator

- Ms. Marion Jansen, Director and Chief Economist, International Trade Centre

Speakers

- H.E. Mr. Martin Garcia Moritán, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina to the UN
- H.E. Mr. Jerry Matjila, Ambassador and Permanent Representative South Africa to the UN
- Ms. Maria Edita Z. Tan, Assistant Secretary, Philippines Department of Finance
- Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Ms. Gulbakhor Makhkamova, Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan
- Mr Alberto Gomez-Obregon, Director of Portfolio, Acumen

Closing remarks

- Mr. Andrew Wilson, Permanent Observer to the UN, International Chamber of Commerce

Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided.



Background: Financial inclusion of small and medium enterprises

Micro, small and medium enterprises are one of the strongest drivers of economic development, innovation and employment. However, access to financial products and services is frequently identified as a critical barrier to their growth. According to the International Finance Corporation, 40% of micro, small and medium enterprises in developing countries face a financial gap of around \$5.2 to \$8.1 trillion annually. Women-owned businesses account for 32% of the finance gap.

At the same time, an environment of low interest rates currently characterizes financial markets and private investors are looking for investment opportunities with good prospects for return on investment.

While it is not uncommon to hear investors state that money is not the problem, the lack of investment projects is. According to Deloitte, there was a \$1 trillion stock of cash held by global private equity funds actively looking to place these resources into investment opportunities with growth potential. This suggests that the current context may provide a unique opportunity to direct profit seeking financial investment into sustainable development. So, if micro, small and medium enterprises are looking for finance, if funding is available in global markets and on top of this finance contributes to the SDGs, what has to happen for that funding to find its way to micro, small and medium enterprises in developing countries and to contribute to sustainable growth?



Contact:	Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative to the UN, New York
E-mail:	ITCNewYork@intracen.org
Telephone:	+1-212-906-5320
Street address:	ITC New York, 24 th Floor, 1 United Nations Plaza New York, NY, 10017, USA
Internet:	www.intracen.org