

13:30 - 15:00 CET / 7:30 – 9:00 EDT

WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2022

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2022 (HLPF)¹

SIDE EVENT: “CLIMATE COMPETITIVENESS: HOW SMALL BUSINESSES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A CLIMATE SMART RECOVERY AND AGENDA 2030 THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRADE”

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes international trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and an important enabler of the SDGs. This virtual side event will highlight how partnerships contribute to an economic transformation that enhances international competitiveness of small businesses and puts them at the centre of a low-carbon transition. It will bring together micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and experts to discuss initiatives that highlight the importance of partnerships (SDG 17) to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for and with MSMEs.

Background:

The COVID19 pandemic has hit the world’s economies and societies hard, and the effects have been the most disruptive in developing countries. The crisis has led governments and businesses alike to try to rebuild economies and to address the climate emergency in doing so.

As the world gradually recovers from the pandemic, support to MSMEs in developing countries, especially in least developed, landlocked, and small island states, is critical. MSMEs are the backbone of economies, representing over 80% of all businesses and employing the majority of the world’s people, particularly women and youth. MSMEs can and must rebuild in a way that prepares them for the looming climate. By supporting MSMEs to transition to a low-carbon economy, they become more competitive and resilient to future crises.

Provisional Agenda

- 13:30** **Welcome and housekeeping rules**
Ms. Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative, New York (tbc)
- 13:35** **Opening remarks**
Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director of ITC
- 13:40** **Presentation of speakers**
Ms. Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative, New York (tbc)
- 13:45** **MSMES experiences and perspectives on climate change & trade**
Miyonga Fresh Greens’s (Kenya), Ms. Yvonne Otieno, Chief Executive Officer
- 13:50 **Candela (Peru), Ms. Guadalupe Lanao, General Manager**
- 13:55 **Recycle X (India), Mr. Vedant Gandhi, Co-Founder Recycle X and Youth Ecopreneur Awardee**
- 14:00** **Sustainability/Climate Experts overview and perspectives on climate change, MSMEs & Trade**
Mr. Binayak Malla, ITC Lead, GreenToCompete Hub - Nepal, specialized in implementing projects on Climate Resilience in MSMEs.
- 14:05 **Mr. Brian-Lee Chandler, ITC National Project Coordinator Barbados – Coconuts project**

¹ The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

- 14:10** **Exchange of experiences + discussion**
Ms. Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative, New York (tbc)
- 14:35** **Q&A**
- 14:55** **Wrap-up**
Ms. Riefqah Jappie, ITC Representative, New York (tbc)