

Enabling Access to finance for SMEs in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies

Session Host: International Trade Centre and Climate Champions

Session Type: Roundtable

Session Title

Enabling Access to finance for SMEs in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies Roundtable

Session Description

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a major role in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) - driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and supporting the creation of a vibrant local economy. At the same time, SMEs are disproportionately vulnerable to climate-related risks and shocks.

SMEs play a vital role in a just transition that delivers equitable human and economic development. Recognizing these challenges and opportunities, particularly across emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), the COP29 High-Level Champion (HLC), Nigar Arparadai, launched the "Climate-Proofing SMEs" campaign to improve SMEs' awareness of and access to relevant capacity building measures and opportunities to access finance - so they too can thrive in the green transition.

This roundtable will bring together organisations providing support to SMEs in EMDEs through the COP29 Climate-Proofing SMEs campaign, alongside SMEs and other organisation in EMDEs to share experience-based insights and a way forward on the role of partnerships in enabling access to finance and support for SMEs. The objectives of this session are:

1. To explore key barriers and opportunities in enabling access to finance for SMEs through coordinated action /partnerships
2. Showcasing the support and resources offered by key global actors for scaling access for finance for SMEs (Including the role of last mile financial service providers)
3. Aligning strategic priorities and activities of key actors in the SME ecosystem to effectively scale access to finance for SME in EMDEs

Proposed Speakers and Moderator

Opening remarks:

- Orkhan Mustafayev, Advisor on Business Engagement, High Level Champions
- Karen Suassuna, Climate & Trade Adviser, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Speakers:

- Representatives of: SEBRAE, UNGC Brazil, Bankers for Net Zero, Dalmia Cement, Tetra Pak, Manioca, CIFAR Alliance, World Benchmarking Alliance, SME Climate Hub, small businesses

Moderator:

- Sombul Munshi - Lead - Emerging Market and Developing Economy (EMDE) Engagement, Climate Champions Team