



3 March 2023

(23-1470)

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Original: English

INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs

CONVENING NOTICE

The following convening notice, dated 3 March 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs.

The Informal Working Group on MSMEs will hold its next regular meeting in hybrid mode in room S1 and through the Interprefy platform on **Monday 20 March 2023**, starting at 10 a.m.

A technical guide summarizing logistical details for participation in Interprefy meetings will be made available on the Members' interactive calendar of meetings, and can also be found at: [WTO Interprefy Delegate Guide](#).

The following items are proposed for the agenda:

MORNING

1 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT (INF/MSME/W/41)

1.1. Members of the Group will be asked to adopt the draft Annual Report circulated on 16 November 2022 in document INF/MSME/W/41.

2 2023 PROGRAM OF WORK

2.1. A program of work articulated around the following four pillars is proposed for Group members' consideration:

a. Promoting MSMEs' access to information

Work under this pillar will focus on the further development of the Trade4MSMEs platform and support to the Global Trade Helpdesk.

b. Building capacity to promote MSMEs' greater inclusion in international trade

Work under this pillar will aim at developing materials, such as handbooks and compendiums of good practices, to help MSMEs participate in international trade and to build policymakers' capacity to support their MSMEs.

Ideas mentioned at previous meetings include: (i) compiling the Trade4MSMEs guides into two Handbooks, one for policymakers and one for MSMEs, and (ii) developing a compendium on how members' AEO programs take into account MSMEs. A dedicated session could be planned in July during which members would present their experience.

Members will be invited to share ideas on other topics that could be the subject of compendiums of good practices.

c. Thematic discussions

Under this pillar, the Group will continue exploring issues of particular interest to MSMEs with a view to developing a new package of recommendations and guidelines.

Members will be invited to indicate topics they would like to focus on.

d. Implementation of the December 2020 MSME Package

- e. Members are encouraged to actively implement the December 2020 MSME Package. Members will be invited to report on progress achieved at each MSME meeting.

2.2. Update on the Trade4MSMEs platform and plan for 2023 (update by the Coordinator).

2.3. Update on the Global Trade Helpdesk and plan for 2023 (Ms Anna Jankowska-Eriksson, ITC).

2.4. Update on the RTA database and call for papers:

- a. The Secretariat will present the revamped RTA database.
- b. Following suggestions by members to look at the impact of RTAs on MSMEs and the discussions on issuing a Call for papers to collect evidence, the Secretariat prepared a draft Call for papers circulated in document INF/MSME/W/42. Members will be invited to approve the Call for papers.

2.5. Briefing by Group members on actions taken to implement the various annexes of the 2020 MSME Package (INF/MSME/4/Rev.2). Members may wish to use the overview list presented to the Group in July 2021 (INF/MSME/W/35 and Corrigendum 1) as a guide.

3 PRESENTATION ON G20 WORK RELATED TO MSMES AND E-COMMERCE (ITC)

3.1. Presentation by the ITC on G20 work related to MSMEs and e-commerce (Mr Rajesh Aggarwal, ITC).

AFTERNOON**4 2022 WINNERS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE**

4.1. The two winners of the 2022 edition of the Small Business Champions Initiative, Mr Youssoufou Daouda, Professional Association "Accompagnements Valeurs Expertises Conseils" (A.V.E.C) (Benin) and Mr Kelvin Ogado, the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) (Tanzania) will brief the Group on the implementation of their projects.

5 THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

5.1. Presentation of the 2022 SMECO report [Connected Services, Competitive Businesses](#) (Ms Valentina Rollo, ITC).

5.2. Presentation by the ICC on their joint report [The Climate Impact of SMEs, Evidence from the UK and South Africa](#) (Mr Charly Gordon, ICC).

6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. MSME Group Coordination: Ambassador José Luís Cancela Gómez will leave Geneva in the second half of 2023. Members interested in coordinating the activities of the Group will be invited to make their position known at the meeting.
