



Side Event organised by UNCTAD at the Financing for Development (FfD) Forum 2018

A PANEL SESSION ON

Trade and Technology

Connecting the Dots for Inclusive Development

OPENING REMARKS

- **Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi**, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

PANELISTS

- **H.E. Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi**, President of UNCTAD Trade and Development Board, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
- **H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Edrees**, Chair of the G77 in New York, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ambassador Modest J. Mero**, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

MODERATED BY

Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director of Division on Technology and Logistics and Officer-in-Charge of Division on International Trade and Commodities

QUESTIONS:

How do we “connect the dots” and stakeholders across different planes to make trade and technology more conducive to inclusive and sustainable development?

- What challenges do small businesses in developing countries face in entering into global “digital” or “sustainable” markets?
- Which support or what kind of partnership help them overcome such challenges?
- What is the UN doing to bring stakeholders together to connect the dots? What else can be done?



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Wednesday 25 April 2018

6.30-8 p.m., Conference Room 5,
United Nations Headquarters, New York

WHY THIS EVENT?

BACKGROUND:

Trade and technology are key enablers of the SDGs. Trends in international markets, e.g. digitalization of trade (e-commerce) or growing consumer demand for sustainable goods and services, create new opportunities for small-scale exporters in developing countries to achieve inclusive export growth and social and environmental sustainability at the same time.

ISSUE:

Small businesses in developing countries do not fully benefit from the emerging opportunities yet – they find it difficult to connect to global markets due to the gaps they face in infrastructure, skills and finance. Decisive actions are needed to close such gaps both at the national and the international levels, but by whom and how? Issues to be tackled are scattered around in various planes, such as internet governance, development finance, trade agreements, business facilitation, corporate social responsibilities or environmental protection, each of which has its own set of stakeholders whose goal may be the same but priorities are different.

QUESTIONS:

How do we “connect the dots” and stakeholders across different planes to make trade and technology more conducive to inclusive and sustainable development? The session will address this issue through discussing the following questions:

- What challenges do small businesses in developing countries face in entering into global “digital” or “sustainable” markets?
- Which support or what kind of partnership help them overcome such challenges?
- What is the UN doing to bring stakeholders together to connect the dots? What else can be done?



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