Background

The coronavirus pandemic is having unprecedented impacts across the globe, especially on human health and economic activities. Governments are combatting the spread of COVID-19 and enacting measures to support public health systems, safeguard the economy and ensure public order and safety.

Likewise, entrepreneurs have looked for creative solutions to keep their activities afloat, addressing a multitude of challenges. The downturn in the global economy following this huge sanitary and health crisis represents unprecedented challenges, but will provide opportunities as well.

Discussion objectives

The objective of this virtual discussion is to identify and analyse the main impacts of COVID-19 on entrepreneurs and MSMEs, their reactions, as well as the support they have received to face the current situation. Discussions will provide an opportunity for an intermediate impact assessment of the disruption, help to identify a set of priority policies and measures for small business-owners in order to facilitate resurgence, and develop a longer-term social and green economic recovery strategy where MSMEs play a central role. The webinars will also help to raise awareness of challenges on post COVID 19 resurgence of MSMEs and share practices on how they could be addressed to facilitate the role of entrepreneurship and MSMEs in the green and sustainable social and economic recovery.

Webinars are structured around 4 themes. Each webinar lasts for 1.5 hours. They are co-led by UNCTAD and UNITAR. The platform is hosted by UNITAR. Registration and data analysis are done by UNITAR and shared with UNCTAD. Spanish and French translation is provided.

27 May 2021 | 9am EST/ 3pm CET

Blue Entrepreneurship and MSMEs resurgenc

- What is the impact of COVID-19 on the blue economy? Has it accelerated the shift toward a blue economy, including in SIDS countries?

- How have entrepreneurs and MSMEs in the blue economy adapted to the COVID-19 crisis? Does post-COVID-19 recovery provide new opportunities for entrepreneurs and MSMEs in the blue economy and how could those be seized?

- How can government policies ensure the integration of entrepreneurs and MSME in a sustainable blue recovery?

- What are the key challenges and good practices to be considered to facilitate the contribution of MSMEs to the blue economy in the aftermath of COVID-19? What capacity building programmes are available?

Target audience

The event is open to all and is targeting all entrepreneurship stakeholders, with a particular focus on the following groups:

- Public sector officials;
- Representatives from the private sector, including MSMEs;
- Academia;
- Civil Society representatives.
Programme

15:00 - Introductory remarks by

Mr. Richard Bolwijn  
Head of Enterprise Branch,  
Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

Ms. Suzanne Johnson  
Senior Advisor to the UN Global Compact, Sustainable Ocean Business

15:10 - Virtual Davos-style discussion moderated by

Mr. Alex Mejia  
Director of the Division for People and Social Inclusion, UNITAR

Panelists From 15:15 to 16:15

Ms. Angelique Antat  
Principal Secretary, Entrepreneurship and Industry Department, Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry, Republic of Seychelles

Dr. Paul Pounder  
PhD, Professor and Director of MBA Program, St. George’s University, West Indies

Ms. Nicole Leotaud  
Executive Director, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Trinidad and Tobago

Q&A session

Ms. Tatiana Glad  
Co-founder of Impact Hub Amsterdam, Netherlands

Mr. Timothy Bouley  
CEO of BioFeyn, France

Ms. Judith Underwood  
CEO of Blue Institute Labs, U.S.

16:15 - Q&A session

Join us!

For more information and registration:

PLEASE CLICK HERE

Or go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4316207432072/WN_VbaF7aJHQAmlG5wQ-_diBA