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## How MSMEs in LDCs can contribute to developing productive capacities and fostering structural transformation in LDCs

Rolf Traeger Chief, LDC Section, UNCTAD

Priorities for the SME ecosystems for the next Programme of Action for the LDCs: Missing middle, SMEs and their productive capacities – Side-event to the Financing for Development Forum

New York, 13 April 2021



## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP – SDG LINK**

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#### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP – SDG LINK**

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Enterprises that contribute most to economic transformation:

- opportunity-driven
- innovative 
   introduce new products & technologies



#### **LDC ENTREPRENEURIAL LANDSCAPE**

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# Most involved in business activity imitating other firms

- Low value added
- Low growth
- Short life cycle
- Little innovation

⇒ Limited potential to transform economy

THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT 2018

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# POLICIES FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship policies that explicitly target structural transformation ensure long-term sustainability and inclusiveness, and help reaching SDGs



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# POLICIES FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Firms face many barriers in startup and scale-up stages
  - $\rightarrow$  They can be addressed through:
    - horizontal policies (e.g. financial system, infrastructure, formalization)
    - more targeted vertical policies (e.g. extension services)
- Constant dialogue between government and private sector
  → Interactive learning

<u>HE ENTREPRENEURIAI</u> TAILORS SUPPORT ACCORDING TO STAGES OF FIRMS' LIFE CYCLE SUPPORT GROWTH ESTABLISHED EXPANSION \_ \_ 5 \_ \_ \_ \_ - 6 TRANSFORMATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP **>>>>** 

