

Side event proposal for the Eleventh Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD): “Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”

Date:TBC

Venue: Kampala, Uganda

Title: Enhancing SMEs Integration in Regional Value and Supply Chains for Job Creation and Sustainable Growth in African Vulnerable Countries

Thematic Focus: Co-organized by the Uganda Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives and the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), this event will focus on strategies to enhance the integration of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) into Regional Value Chains (RVCs) within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It aligns with the ARFSD’s theme: “Driving job creation and economic growth through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. By focusing on integrating SMEs into Regional Value Chains (RVCs) under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the event supports key SDGs, including decent work, innovation, and partnerships. It will provide actionable policy recommendations, highlight best practices, and promote technological innovations to enhance SME competitiveness. Additionally, the event fosters regional cooperation and strengthens partnerships between governments, financial institutions, and development partners, contributing to sustainable growth and job creation across Africa.

Organizers and Partners:

- Uganda Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA),
- United Nations Resident Coordination Office in Uganda
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Association of Entrepreneurs
- Ghana Enterprises Agency

Speaker and Panelists:

- **Keynote Speaker:** Mr. Antonio M.A. Pedro, Director at SRO-EA, UNECA
- **Moderator:** Ms. Habiba Ben Barka, Chief of Africa Section at UNCTAD
- **Panelists:**
 - Dr. Joshua Mutambi, Commissioner for Processing and Marketing at MTIC Uganda
 - Mrs. Kosi Yankey-Ayeh, CEO of Ghana Enterprises Agency
 - Ms. Lovin Kobusingye, President-CEO of Kati Farms
 - Mr. Richard Ndahiro, Uganda Digital Country Lead at UNCDF
 - Mr. Abou Fall, Principal Trade Policy Officer at AfDB