



Title: Unlocking Opportunities for SME Financing and Capacity-building in Emerging Markets

Date: 5th March 2025

Time: 11:30AM - 1PM IST

Venue: Marigold Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

### ***Concept Note***

#### **Problem statement and state of play**

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a major role in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) - driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and supporting the creation of a vibrant local economy. At the same time, SMEs are disproportionately vulnerable to climate-related risks and shocks. SMEs play a vital role in a just transition that delivers equitable human and economic development. Recognizing these challenges and opportunities, particularly across emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), the COP29 High-Level Champion (HLC), Nigar Arparadai, launched the [“Climate-Proofing SMEs” campaign](#) to improve SMEs’ awareness of and access to relevant capacity building measures and opportunities to access finance - so they too can thrive in the green transition.

As of December 2024, as many as [57 million](#) MSMEs in India are registered on the Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) - showcasing the growth in formalization. This growth in formalization remains essential as an enabler for supporting SMEs to gain access to affordable, formal credit, and its forward linkages with job creation, economic growth, and climate-resilience for millions of Indians. In India and EMDEs in the region, partnership-based models for supporting access to finance and capacity building for formalized SMEs are helping SMEs overcome the multi-fold challenges they continue to face.

This roundtable will bring together organisations providing support to SMEs in the region through the Climate-Proofing SMEs campaign, alongside SMEs and leading organisations in the region - to share experience-based insights on opportunities and a way forward to empower SMEs in the context of the evolving impacts of climate change.

### Objectives of the thematic track

The objectives of this session/track are to create a platform for:

1. Exploring key enablers/ opportunities in enabling access to formal finance and capacity-building for SMEs in emerging markets, towards building their resilience to climate impacts
2. Knowledge-sharing on the regional EMDE-specific landscape - of existing support and resources for scaling access for finance for SMEs, and lessons learnt
3. Highlighting the role of SME ecosystem builders, financial institutions, and partnerships in climate-proofing SMEs in emerging markets, including through success/case stories

### Event format and guiding questions for the discussion

Session Agenda:		
Time (IST)	Session description	Guiding collateral, questions, key points
11:30 - 11:45 (15 mins)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Welcome remarks</i></li> <li>2. <i>Overview presentation on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Current state of financing for SMEs in EMDEs (Data, Key observations from EMDEs, solutions)</li> <li>● Spotlighting India and EMDEs as SME champions</li> <li>● Climate-Proofing SMEs campaign</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>HLC Nigar Arpadarai</i></li> <li>2. <i>Climate Champions Team (CCT)</i></li> </ol>
11:45 - 12:20 (30-35 mins)	<p><i>Where we Stand Today: State of Play</i></p> <p>Interactive discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration between the private and public sector, and its role in helping SMEs access</li> </ul>	<p><i>Guiding questions posed to the audience:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How can active collaboration between financial institutions such as commercial banks, IFIs/DFIs,</i></li> </ol>

	<p>formal, affordable credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of financial institutions as an enabler, success stories/case examples shared by participants</li> </ul>	<p><i>large corporations, and SMEs, help enable access to finance? Towards building resilience and climate-proofing</i></p> <p>2. <i>What are a few notable success stories in the SME financing space, in the context of climate-proofing?</i></p>
<p>12:20 - 12:55 (30-35 mins)</p>	<p><i>The Road Ahead</i></p> <p>Interactive discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key steps that need to be taken/pursued by each ecosystem stakeholder to scale access to finance for SMEs in EMDEs</li> </ul>	<p><i>Guiding questions posed to the audience:</i></p> <p><i>Way forward:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>What are the key actions that SME ecosystem actors - financial institutions, capacity-building providers, research organizations, others - need to prioritize?</i></li> <li>2. <i>What does a roadmap towards building climate resilience of SMEs in EMDEs look like?</i></li> </ol>
<p>12:55 – 13:00 (5 mins)</p>	<p><i>Closing Remarks by the Climate Champions Team (CCT)</i></p>	

### **About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)**

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world’s most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 24th edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 5-7 March 2025 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions.