Session 4 - Funding: Securing Financing and Investment

Access to finance and investment is not just a necessity for SDS to foster economic growth, but it also serves as a lifeline for their continued sustainable development. Despite being hit hard by dimate change while only contributing to 1% of global carbon dioxide emissions, they only had access to \$1.5 billion out of \$100 billion in dimate finance pledged to developing countries in 2019¹. From economic diversification to local empowerment and green transition, strategic investments are crucial for implementing the new SDS agenda. The session will explore access to finance and investment with one panel for each theme. The session takes a practical approach with on how to enhance access to finance and attract investment.

Panel Discussion 1: Finance

The panel is composed of business leaders working towards improving access to finance for individuals, communities, and enterprises. The panel will focus its discussions on three areas:

• The present: Identifying the microeconomic challenges and structural barriers faced by Micro Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in building credit history and accessing finance as well as unID 5/1 11.04(ly)-(h)(ad)4(acc)8(ess)6(to)(\$)5(1)-(35)]TETQD.00000912 0 612 92 re\(\text{MBT/F1 BT/F1 11.04} \)

Format

The session will comprise a panel discussion in the form of a moderated conversation. This will be followed by an open discussion where all participants are invited to engage.

Expected Outcomes

- Recognition of the situation of financing and investment in SDS including market opportunities and barriers.
- Understanding of investor and financer hesitations.
- Sharing of actionable strategies to overcome challenges and risks for financing and investment, including through partnerships.
- Insights into effective measures that SIDS governments and investment promotion agencies can take to pave the way for increased access to finance and investment.

Partners

Session 2 is co-created with the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the International Trade Centre (ITC).