

### About the OECD Ministerial Meeting on SMEs and Entrepreneurship



On 27-28 June 2023, Ministers from OECD countries and invited non-OECD economies, alongside partner International Organisations and experts, will gather at the OECD Headquarters in Paris for the first meeting of the OECD Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE) at Ministerial Level (Ministerial Meeting). Convened by the OECD, the Ministerial Meeting will be chaired by New Zealand with the active support of Switzerland, France, and guidance from CSMEE Bureau members (Canada, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Türkiye, United Kingdom). It will coincide with the United Nations Micro Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSME) Day and thus strengthen momentum of global discussions about the crucial importance of SMEs and entrepreneurs for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Managing Shocks and Transitions – Future Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies

In recent years, SMEs and entrepreneurs have been disproportionately affected by a series of shocks and increased uncertainty at the international level. First, the COVID-19 pandemic, threatened the survival of millions of SMEs with limited liquidity. Shortly thereafter, SMEs and entrepreneurs were hit by the economic shocks reverberating from Russia's large-scale aggression against Ukraine. Addressing the immediate challenges of these crises, including the squeeze from rising costs and weakening demand, set against a backdrop of tightening monetary policy, is critical. As the fiscal room for action is shrinking and economic volatility is increasing, it is also crucial to rethink how to address longer-standing structural challenges in the SME and entrepreneurship policy space.

At the same time, there is significant scope to more fully harness the potential of SMEs and entrepreneurship to innovate and contribute to major economic, environmental, social and societal transitions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many SMEs and entrepreneurs proved agile and innovative, adapting to rapidly changing conditions, and offering new services and products to address societal needs. Given their sheer weight in economies, the way SMEs adapt to or lead the digital and green transitions will have far reaching implications on the resilience of supply chains, the competitiveness of national and local economies, as well as social cohesion and inclusiveness.

Taken together, these issues point to the critical need to boost the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs to potential future shocks, and to continue strengthening their capacity to innovate and compete. They point to the need for SME and entrepreneurship policies to evolve in new directions, including by adopting a people-centered approach, which recognizes the large diversity and the specific characteristics of the individuals driving entrepreneurial ventures, their potential, their strengths and weaknesses, and acknowledges the importance of well-being and mental health of entrepreneurs and SME employees.

### What will Ministers discuss?

Ministers will also have the opportunity to exchange on related themes, such as:



**Strengthening the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs in highly volatile environments**

- improving SME access to finance;
- reskilling and upskilling SMEs and entrepreneurs;
- inclusive entrepreneurship;
- rebooting start-up and scale-up policies;
- no net zero without SMEs, and
- revisiting broad-based policies from a SME and entrepreneurship lens.



**Fostering SMEs' and entrepreneurs' contributions to the digital and green transitions**



**Enabling SMEs and entrepreneurs to navigate a rapidly changing global trade and investment landscape**

Discussions will be supported by a key issues paper setting out top-level points for discussion by Ministers, including the policy context, the key issues at stake and policy considerations. The Ministerial meeting will culminate with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration on Enhancing SMEs and Entrepreneurship Policies for Greater Resilience and Successful

Green and Digital Transitions, including commitments to boost resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs, enhance their contribution to green and digital transition, and foster their participation in global trade and value chains through a people-centered approach to policymaking, as well as orientations for future OECD work. During the Ministerial meeting, the OECD will launch the **SME and Entrepreneurship Outlook 2023**, a new **Recommendation on SME Financing** and an **Implementation Toolkit in support of the 2022 Recommendation on SME and Entrepreneurship Policy**.



# Future-Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies SME & Entrepreneurship Ministerial

27-28 June 2023 | OECD, Paris

## SME and Entrepreneurship Stakeholder Dialogue event

On 26 June 2023, the eve of the Ministerial Meeting, Business at OECD (BIAC) and the OECD will jointly organise a SME and Entrepreneurship Stakeholder Dialogue event. The event, which will take place at the OECD Headquarters in Paris, intends to foster dialogue on the private sector's role in the context of the overarching theme of "Managing Shocks and Transitions – Future-Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies"

Engaging Ministers, SME representatives, business and sector associations, large businesses, financial institutions, and other key stakeholders in the SME ecosystem, the dialogue will provide an opportunity to share views on how the public sector can contribute toward the future-proofing of SMEs and entrepreneurs and on how the private sector itself can contribute to this objective. With the intent to discuss main business priorities, opportunities, and challenges, and explore an agenda for further private sector action, the event will feature panel discussions that allow for a dynamic exchange of views on the following topics:

- navigating the rapidly changing business climate and building the resilience of SMEs and entrepreneurs,
- mobilizing SMEs and entrepreneurs in the green and digital transformations, and
- enhancing the well-being of SMEs and entrepreneurs.

## Further reading



## Contact

For more information, please contact:



CSMEE@oecd.org



[www.oecd-events.org/sme-entrepreneurship-ministerial-2023](http://www.oecd-events.org/sme-entrepreneurship-ministerial-2023)



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