

**WUSME WORLD UNION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**  
*In Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC since 2013*

**STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**  
**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

**Draft 10 October 2023**

**Period covered by this Communication on Engagement (COE)**  
**OCTOBER 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2023**

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that WUSME World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

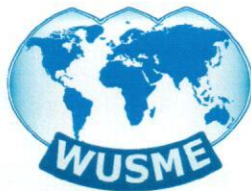
This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact for the period October 2021 to September 2023. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Barbara Terenzi

President



## II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

During the subject COE period, WUSME has undertaken actions in support of the UN Global Compact that particularly referred, among the other principles, to the following Principles of the UN Global Compact:

**Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;**

**Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation;**

**Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;**

**Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.**

### EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS INCLUDE:

WUSME's Public Relations Policy

Since WUSME's partnership with UNGC, having been constituted in the year 2013, it is an integral part of our standing public relations policy to inform our members and affiliated partners and network about the principles of UNGC and encourage them to follow our example. We are doing this in all WUSME Conferences, General Meetings and workshops, but also via our public media, in our website, in the social media, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn and in our regular WUSME Newsletters. Therein, we informed SMEs related Organizations and entrepreneurs worldwide about UNGC's mission.

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Strada Borrana, 35 47899 Serravalle - Repubblica di San Marino  
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Tel.: +378 0549 991277 [www.wusme.org](http://www.wusme.org)



## **YEAR 2021 (OCTOBER-DECEMBER) - UNGC PRINCIPLES RELATED INITIATIVES**

### **WUSME PARTNER ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM BY UNCTAD 20-21 OCTOBER 2021**

WUSME was Partner Organization of the World Investment Forum (WIF) organized by UNCTAD on 20-21 October 2021. WIF the pre-eminent global platform for investment and development.

In particular, WUSME actively contributed to the proceedings of the Conference designating different WUSME Representatives as Speakers for the sessions on SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES and FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES.

In the first session, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi took the floor to convey an institutional message at the opening, followed by Ms. Sushma Morthania, Member of the Permanent Commission on Women Entrepreneurship, delegated by WUSME Vice President J.S. Juneja, and by WUSME Special Representative Mr. Dogad Dogoui. as Panelists, bringing cases respectively from Asia and Africa. In the second session, Mr. Vinod Kumar, Member of the WUSME Board, intervened on the related topic.

### **INSTITUTIONAL MESSAGE OF WUSME PRESIDENT TO COP26, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE 29 OCTOBER 2021**

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO – October 29th, 2021 – WUSME will attend, under the permitted conditions, the COP26, the UN conference on climate change, organized by the British Government in partnership with Italy in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

In her institutional message, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi stated:

*“As President of the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises and as Barbara Terenzi, I am persuaded that climate change is, in current time, the greatest challenge facing humanity.*

*The transition to a sustainable economy, meant as environmental, social and economic sustainability closely linked to each other, is necessary for human survival.*

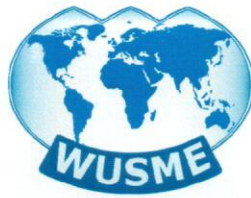
*This year as well, as in the past, the WUSME Association will participate in the COP activities as Organization in Special Consultative Status with the UN-ECOSOC since 2013 and by virtue of its recognition as Observer by the UNFCCC, obtained in 2018.*

*Following the effects of COVID-19, the WUSME Association is particularly concerned about the impact of the energy transition on the activities of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts internationally and could actively contribute in helping SMEs to achieve climate neutrality.*

*The WUSME Association is to act as link between Institutions and SMEs in the various countries of the world, to encourage greater communication and sharing of guidelines. The WUSME Association continues carrying on its commitment to raise awareness among Institutions so that SMEs are supported, at the different stages necessary for the energy transition, and so that aid is guaranteed through the possibility of accessing immediate funding with a simplified bureaucracy. “*

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## **WUSME ATTENDING AT COP26**

**31 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2021**

WUSME attended COP26, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, which took place this year under the presidency of the United Kingdom in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021. World leaders met there to discuss the issues of climate change and the need to adopt common policies aimed at environmental sustainability. WUSME President Barbara Terenzi, Vice President India Dr. Joginder Singh Juneja and Board Member Michel Fossaert were members of the delegation attending virtually the Conference.

At the end of the two weeks, the States present at the climate conference adopted the "Glasgow Pact" to accelerate the fight against climate change (zero emissions globally by 2050 and aim to limit the increase in temperatures to 1,5°C) and thus outline the basis for its future.

WUSME aims at encouraging small and medium enterprises to fight against global warming and help them identify useful solutions for a successful climate transition and adaptation, through training, technological innovation and adoption of good practices. SMEs can significantly contribute to climate change resilience by implementing the policies, directives and guidelines provided by institutions, as well as developing new business opportunities in the context of a sustainable, innovative and decarbonized global economy.

## **WUSME AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**

**29 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2021**

By virtue of its Consultative Status with UNIDO, WUSME has been invited to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO held from November 29 to December 3 in Vienna in-person and virtually. WUSME President Barbara Terenzi and Secretary General Norbert Knoll virtually attended the proceedings and followed, in particular, the UNIDO Forum On Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development to develop ideas for future cooperation with UNIDO.

As stated in its presentation, the General Conference of UNIDO "takes place at a critical juncture following the Secretary-General's call for a "Decade of Action" and in light of the prolonged economic recovery in store for countries all over the world. Now more than ever, UNIDO must capitalize on its rich expertise, importance and recognized role in the international development arena. By bringing into stronger focus the practical aspects of the implementation of its mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development UNIDO supports countries get back on track to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Within the ongoing and fast-developing parameters of the COVID-19 pandemic, GC.19 will guarantee sound legislative proceedings and maximum Member State participation while safeguarding the health and safety of all participants. Please find information about the Conference's side-events below.

## **WUSME AT UNCTAD'S "GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE: POST COVID-19 RESURGENCE OF MSMEs AND COMPETITION POLICY**

**1-3 DECEMBER 2021**

WUSME took part, as Partner Organization, in the "Dialogue on Global Policy: Post COVID-19 Resurgence of MSMEs and Competition Policy" organized by UNCTAD, in association

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with UNESCAP, CEPAL e ESCWA, from 1 to 3 December 2021.

The 3 DAY event focused on the following interlinked topics: Impact of competition policy in the digitalization of MSMEs in the wake of COVID-19; Access to finance, Government support in times of COVID-19; Interagency coordination between MSME agencies and competition authorities.

At the session scheduled on December 2st on "Access to finance, Government support in times of COVID-19", WUSME Ambassador in Chile Alessandro Bozzo spoke remotely on behalf of the Organization. During his intervention, he highlighted the challenges Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are facing in the Latin America and specifically in Chile and recorded the significant increase in SMEs guarantee funds and schemes to facilitate access to credit. On occasion of his participation in the UNCTAD "GLOBAL PUBLIC DIALOGUE" on December 1st to address digitalization of MSMEs, Mr. Vinod Kumar, President of India SME Forum and Board Member of WUSME, recalled how WUSME, as World SMEs Organization, has been looking at digitalization as very important factor for MSME recovery and rebuilding.

## **YEAR 2022 - UNGC PRINCIPLES RELATED INITIATIVES**

### **WUSME AT "SHAKTY NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS 2022"**

#### **NEW DELHI (INDIA) - MARCH 7, 2022**

WUSME joined "SHAKTY NATIONAL CONVENTION for Empowering Women Entrepreneurs 2022", held on 7 March 2021, in New Delhi (India) and virtually, and organized in association with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India and India SME Forum.

WUSME President Barbara Terenzi and Chairwoman of the Permanent Commission for Women Entrepreneurship Dr. Pauline Crawford intervened as International Speakers in the session entitled "Enabling an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Women: Experiences from around the World".

In her speech, WUSME President remarked how SMEs are an important part of the economy in every country of the world. "In particular – WUSME President said- we must also consider women and young enterprises. Thanks to the support of its network and opportunity for exchange between the different countries, WUSME is voice of SMEs to Institutions worldwide, to share ideas and promote best practices".

Dr. Pauline Crawford focused her speech stating: "I am here today to represent the Permanent Commission of WUSME for Women Entrepreneurship. On behalf of WUSME, we investigated what was happening in the last COVID years in India, Africa and Asean countries. Some of the problems are similar. Women have to deal with many very facets of business and life. There is a financial and a business issue obviously, but there is always also a social issue. The ability to share is really important. WUSME is also looking at education for women entrepreneurs across the world, because education is essential for them. Women are extremely talented, have incredible natural skills for business, that maybe are underestimated".

Dr. J S Juneja, Director WUSME attended the Shakti National Convention : Empowering



Women Entrepreneurs 2022 and interacted with all the participants to continue motivating young people to set up their own business and industries, so that they may be *job creators and not job hunters*. They could own their business and become their own boss.

**WUSME AT THE 27TH MEETING OF THE UNFCCC STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
CAPE TOWN (SOUTH AFRICA) MARCH 22-23, 2022**

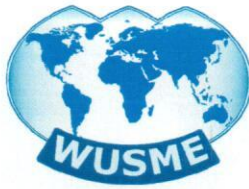
WUSME delegate and Ambassador in Chile Mr. Alessandro Bozzo attended virtually the 27th meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance of UNFCCC held on March 22-23, 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa. Among the items on the agenda, the Committee was invited to consider the mandates provided by COP 26 and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 3) at its third session, with a view to agreeing on the scope, outputs and organization of work in 2022. In his speech, WUSME delegate and Ambassador in Chile, Mr. Alessandro Bozzo, presented the Union of Small and Medium Enterprises, recalling its commitment as Observer Organization to the UNFCCC and bringing his own experience on SME financing. WUSME President Barbara Terenzi underlined in her institutional message to COP26, *"WUSME Association continues carrying on its commitment to raise awareness among Institutions in order for SME to be supported in the different stages of the energy transition, and to guarantee aid, promoting easier access to immediate funding and with a simplified bureaucracy."*

**WUSME AT THE AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT -AWS 2022  
VIENNA (AUSTRIA) – JUNE 14, 2022**

WUSME took part in the annual R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT held in Vienna on May 28th and 29th 2019. The event was attended by WUSME President Barbara Terenzi. The Austrian World Summit, at its six edition, is a long-term initiative to help regions, states and cities implementing the sustainable development goals of the UN Agenda by 2030 and achieving global climate protection goals defined in the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit climate change. During the summit, the UN General Secretary António Guterres pointed out that "renewable energies are the 21st century peace plan" and that "the window to prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis is closing rapidly". Precisely for this reason, according to the UN General Secretary, "we need to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by the middle of the century".

Speakers, included Arnold Schwarzenegger, founder of R20 Regions of Climate Action. The former Governor of California, remotely connected, highlighted how technology plays a decisive role in the fight against climate change. "Right now – he pointed out – we have all the technology we need to leave fossil fuels in the past, to create a future in which our economy explodes and our children breathe clean air. Technology can be our savior".

Consistent with its mission and the concern towards climate change and environmental protection, WUSME is particularly engaged in enhancing the world of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts as stakeholders able to play an active and important role in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs) and fighting change climate, sharing their experience and implementing sustainable projects.



## **WUSME DELEGATION AT UNIDO IN VIENNA**

### **VIENNA (AUSTRIA) – JUNE 14, 2022**

A WUSME delegation, composed by President Ms. Barbara Terenzi, General Coordinator Ms. Maria Valeria Pasquini and Prof. Dr. Norbert Knoll von Dornhoff, visited the UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The WUSME delegation met Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director of the Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business together with other Officers of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The meeting focused on opportunities of collaboration between WUSME and UNIDO, as well as issues relating to climate, agriculture and sustainable projects of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts.

## **WUSME CELEBRATING THE MSME DAY 2022 ADDRESSING THE SPECIAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE UN**

### **NEW YORK CITY (USA) - JUNE 27, 2022**

On the occasion of the MSME DAY (JUNE 27), WUSME actively contributed to the events organized by the United Nations to celebrate.

In particular, Mr. Daniel Musiitwa Ssubi, WUSME Board Member, spoke at the 5th Annual Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises event, held in the United Nations headquarters New York and virtually on June 27, in the session on "Innovations in the MSMEs to support the SDGs".

*"The pandemic has taught us – said Mr. Ssubi - that crisis and containment measures do not impact everyone in the same way. Hence resilient recovery is the focus of this year's events. You all know that MSMEs account for 90% of all business on this globe. Due to the significant contribution to the economy, MSMEs are essential for innovations, job creation and productivity. It is a back bone of societies everywhere contributing to local and national economy and to sustaining livelihood especially among the working poor, women, youth and in vulnerable situations".*

## **WUSME AT THE CONFERENCE ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF COMPETITION POLICY TO THE RESURGENCE OF MSMES POST-COVID-19**

### **BANGKOK (THAILAND) - JUNE 27-28, 2022**

On the occasion of the MSME DAY -JUNE 27, WUSME will participate in events organized by the United Nations. Mr. Vinod Kumar, WUSME Board Member, and Mr. Nestor Buenaflor, WUSME Ambassador in Thailand, will speak at the event organized by UNCTAD and ESCAP on the "THE CONTRIBUTION OF COMPETITION POLICY TO THE RESURGENCE OF MSMES POST-COVID-19" held in Bangkok (Thailand) and virtually on 27 and 28 June. Mr. Kumar will speak in the session on the topic "Presentation of the online course on SMEs and competition policy" while Mr. Buenaflor will speak in the session "Presentation: Exploiting the interaction between digital platforms and SMEs: recommended practices for digital platforms".

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## **WUSME AT THE AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK IN LIBREVILLE, GABON LIBREVILLE (GABON) – AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2**

WUSME participated in the Africa Climate Week (ACW 2022), from 29 August to 2 September 2022 in Libreville, Gabon. The event was co-organized by the UNFCCC in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and several regional partners. The week has been dedicated to workshops, negotiations, new partnerships and round tables on initiatives, management and financing for the sustainable development of Africa, with climate change and its impact on water, food, health, transport and industrialization with sessions dedicated to action for accelerate the implementation of the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Paris Agreement, in preparation for COP27 to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022. To represent the Organization was Mr. Dogad Dogoui, WUSME Special Representative and Ambassador in Tunisia as well as President of Africa SMB Forum. "My role for WUSME here, as well as for the Africa SMB Forum platform, is to defend the interests of Small and Medium Enterprises – he underlined during an interview – therefore access to debates, regulatory and legislative changes on climate change and transition and related markets. As for Africa (states, NGOs, local authorities and companies – including SMEs), the focus remains the search for a better balance in the contributions between the "polluters" countries of the North, West and East of the world, and the countries of the South – including Africans – who need to draw resources from the planet to ensure sustainable development and growth, as inclusive as possible".

## **WUSME AT THE HORASIS INDIA MEETING IN VIETNAM BINH DUONG NEW CITY (VIETNAM) – SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2022**

Ms. Sushma Morthania, Vice Chair of the Permanent Commission on Social Issues and Women's Entrepreneurship of WUSME, the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises, attended the annual Horasis India Meeting held at in Binh Duong Convention and Exhibition Center in Binh Duong New City, Vietnam. Ms. Morthania took part, as Panelist, in the session focusing on "Female Leadership and Why We need it More than Ever". Multiple studies indicate that female leaders outperform their male counterparts in globally critical areas like handling the COVID-19 crisis or environmental and social governance (ESG) – including measures to counter climate change. So why do women remain vastly underrepresented in leadership positions? What mindset changes are needed? Among men? Among women? In the corporate world and political arena? Can we define the unique qualities and benefits female leaders bring to the table.

In her speech, Ms. Morthania highlighted, among other things, that "it is imperative to understand the external forces or stimuli that lead to discrimination or gender inequality at the most basic levels of society" and recommended building strong networks for sharing successful stories and supporting each other, enabling and educating.

"We need to use technology to connect and reach every MOTHER on this planet and through her, the next generation of Mankind. GENDER EQUALITY HAS TO START WITH ME – EACH WOMAN HERSELF." she concluded.

Dr. J S Juneja, Director, WUSME and Chairman, Global Projects & Services Private Limited actively participated in the "Horasis India Meeting" and addressed the meeting.

He pointed out that both the countries namely Vietnam & India have a strong entrepreneurial base of SMEs. Enterprising spirit is bountiful and are competing in supply





chain management. Both can make a big success in complementing each other's strengths and capabilities.

**WUSME DELEGATION IN VISIT TO ECOMONDO, THE ITALIAN GREEN TECHNOLOGY EXPO RIMINI (ITALY) - NOVEMBER 8 2022**

WUSME President Barbara Terenzi visited to the Rimini fair to participate in the ECOMONDO AND KEY ENERGY, the GREEN TECHNOLOGY EXPO. On this occasion Ms. Terenzi met Mr. Giovanni Lezzi, Representative of Confartigianato Italia, and Mr. Andrea Carapellese, International Expert on Investment & Technology at UNIDO. During the meetings, opportunities for collaboration between the respective Organizations in support of Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts were discussed.

**WUSME COP 27 SIDE EVENT: TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE: REMEDIAL MEASURES FOR SMES, SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND GOVERNANCE SHARM EL SHEIKH (EGYPT) - NOVEMBER 16, 2022**

Successful outcome of the official side event led by WUSME in collaboration with ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India), ACCARD (African Centre for Climate Action and Rural Development Initiative), Initiatives of Change International e EDFI (European Development Finance Institutions) on 16 November 2022, at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, on the theme "*Tackling Climate Change: remedial measures for SMEs, sustainable infrastructure and land governance*".

Main topics addressed by the experts and panelists: climate finance, adaptation & mitigation needs, solutions and proposals for the energy transition of SMEs and communities in key sectors such as energy, agriculture, management of water resources and the territory with particular attention to their impact on young people, women and social development.

Speakers from WUSME: Ms. Barbara Terenzi, WUSME President and Mr. Michel Fossaert, Ms. Bernadette Ouedraogo WUSME Board Members.

On invitation of WUSME Mr. Soren Andreasen, CEO of EDFI.

**WUSME TO PROMOTE CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN AFRICA KAMPALA (UGANDA) – NOVEMBER 30, 2022**

In its commitment to support MSMEs and CRAFTs adaptation to climate change, WUSME collaborates with Partner Organizations to explore effective solutions to climate adaptation, especially in most vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and most hit regions such as Africa. As part of this action, WUSME Director Mr. Daniel Musiitwa Ssubi attended a workshop held in Kampala (Uganda) on November 30, 2022, upon initiative of VITO, an international renowned Flemish Research and Technology Organisation (RTO), on the KLIMPALA project, a Climate Platform for Adaptation in the African Agricultural Sector. Mr. Ssubi actively contributed to the panel discussion sharing his highlights on challenges and opportunities for Ugandan SMEs in climate adaptation planning and finance.



## **WUSME AT THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB)**

**NOVEMBER 21-23, 2022**

As Organization in Consultative Status with UNIDO, WUSME had the opportunity to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the UNIDO Industrial Board held from 21 to 23 of November 2023 in Vienna. A WUSME delegation composed of President Barbara Terenzi and Directors Dr. Joginder Singh Juneja, Mr. Michel Fossaert, Mr. Vinod Kumar and Mr. Daniel Musiitwa Ssubi virtually joined the different sessions of the 3 day Conference, with particular attention to the opening message of DG Gerd Müller, UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNIDO strategy in response to climate change, the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and the Special Event on "Industrial Policy for the Energy Transition". In a meeting following the conclusion of the Conference, WUSME delegates highlighted a few key results: the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals was often indicated as aim of the investments needed as well as facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building. Energy and hydrogen were also at the center of the discussions. Highlighted the Potential of Integrated Agro-Food Parks for Industrialization of Africa.

## **YEAR 2023 (JANUARY – OCTOBER) - UNGC PRINCIPLES RELATED INITIATIVES**

### **WUSME's Written Statement for The 61st Session Of The United Nations Commission For Social Development (CSocD61)**

**18 JANUARY, 2023**

As NGO accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), WUSME was entitled to submit a Written Statement for the 61st Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) to take place from 6 to 15 February 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York with the following Priority Theme "Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The Written Statement has been approved and officially published on the Official Document System of the United Nations at the following link.

WUSME may also designate representatives to attend the annual sessions of the CSocD. The document, drafted by the Permanent Commission for the Development of SMEs of the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises (WUSME), under the guidance of the President, Barbara Terenzi, the Board of Directors and the WUSME HQ, reaffirms, in its conclusion, the commitment of WUSME ready to work with all the development partners to meet the aspirations of the communities across the globe and looks forward to the results of the deliberations of this 61st United Nations Commission for Social Development.

### **WUSME at the 61st session of the UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSOCD61)**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

On February 13, 2023 Dr. Annie Borello, Permanent Representative of WUSME to UN HQ in New York City, attended the 61st Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) to convey a message on behalf of the Union of Small and Medium Enterprises, during the General Discussion.

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In her statement, Dr. Borello highlighted how "it is essential for governments and international organizations to promote entrepreneurship with adequate public policies and to focus on women entrepreneurs, with programs supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, vocational and entrepreneurial training activities, promotion of best practices, green economy, digitalization that helps to bridge physical and social gaps, and technology transfer, especially to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises operating in key sectors for the social development of emerging countries, which contributes to sustainable development goals and decreases inequality."

She also stressed how "Fostering women's entrepreneurship directly and indirectly address inequalities in a particularly effective way, contributing to the wellbeing of families, allowing the development of new childcare solutions thus preventing also criminality, child labor and trafficking."

Additional recommendations have been expressed in the written statement submitted by WUSME for the Session and officially published on the relate website.

WUSME stands ready to work with all partners that share these goals for the improvement of the conditions of communities around the world and looks forward to the results of the deliberations of the 61st United Nations Commission on Social Development.

### **WUSME Partner of the 8th Annual Shakti National Convention – Empowering Women Entrepreneurs**

**9 MARCH 2023**

WUSME joined the "8th Annual Shakti National Convention 2023 – Empowering Women Entrepreneurs" organized by India SME Forum with the support of the Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Government of India, as International Partner.

On the occasion, WUSME President Barbara Terenzi sent a message of support to the initiative, whose main theme this year was "Promoting a sustainable ecosystem for female entrepreneurship".

In her statement, WUSME President recalled how the Organization has always supported Female Entrepreneurship and has a Permanent Commission specifically dedicated to Social Issues and Female Entrepreneurs.

"Women make up a substantial number of micro-enterprises in many countries. It is important to focus on how technology and innovation can help achieve gender equality to accelerate the value attributed to women in business and enterprise, enabling easy access to finance as necessary also to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set in the 2030 Agenda" she recommended. WUSME will continue to collaborate with its Stakeholders to promote a sustainable and women-empowering ecosystem.

### **WUSME at the 67° session of the UN COMMISSION on the STATUS of WOMEN**

**15 MARCH 2023**

WUSME Ambassador in Connecticut, Ms. Fran Pastore, attended the 67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) held March from 6 to 17, 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. On the occasion, Ms. Pastore had the opportunity to interact with many other delegates present at the Conference on behalf of Organizations engaged to protect and support women in different countries and areas of specific interest. WUSME actively contributed to the event also through the presentation of a written declaration which has been officially published on the

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Conference website at the following link. In the document, WUSME reaffirms its commitment to protect and support female entrepreneurship also through the work of its Permanent Commission on Social Issues and Women Entrepreneurship. In recent meetings held, the Commission addressed issues related to what is happening on the ground for women entrepreneurs particularly in underdeveloped and developing countries.

In the paper, it is highlighted how it is important to focus on how technology and innovation can help achieve gender parity to accelerate the value placed on women in business. The statement also includes general recommendations to promote an environment conducive to the goals of the UN Commission on the Status of Women such as to support the necessary changes in gender equality policy, to continue addressing global issues of inequality and put pressure on making available the resources needed such as technology, business education, ease of funding, environmental safety measures for women in business and in their communities. WUSME is ready to work with all partners sharing the goal to improve women's conditions around the world, foremost through the empowerment of female entrepreneurship.

**WUSME'S WRITTEN STATEMENT for the UN-ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT 2023  
2 MAY 2023**

As NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), WUSME is entitled to submit Written Statements to the ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT held from 17 to 20 July 2023 and will be guided by the theme of the 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels." The Written Statement of WUSME has already been taken noted and published by the UN DESA NGO Branch. In the statement, it is highlighted that "As we continue to navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, it is critical that we accelerate our efforts towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and is noted that "the current global scenario demands a collaborative effort to accelerate the recovery of MSMEs and achieve the sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030, sharing their best practices regarding the MSMEs ecosystem to develop an inclusive and enabling environment."

**WUSME celebrating MSMEs DAY 2023: message by the President  
27 JUNE 2023**

**Message by WUSME President Barbara Terenzi for the MSME Day 2023 (27 June)**

*The WUSME Association is pleased to celebrate today the MSME Day established during the United Nations General Assembly on 6 April 2017.*

*It is an opportunity to honor the contribution of MSMEs to economic development.*

*It is important to recall that, globally, MSMEs are the backbone of many economies and provide employment opportunities.*

*In recent years, several crises put the life of small and medium-sized businesses to the test: conflicts, dependence on raw materials, geopolitical tensions and the COVID 19 pandemic.*



*This day is part of the 2030 agenda, remembering to look to the future and to the new generations, embracing sustainable development, as working in harmony with the environment has now become a necessity.*

*The WUSME Association continues carrying out its commitment to raise awareness among the institutions so that MSMEs are provided with the necessary means, such as innovation, digitization, training programs and access to finance, towards an inclusive and sustainable economic growth.*

*Barbara Terenzi  
WUSME President*

### **WUSME joined the OECD at the "SME AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE" in Paris**

**27 JUN 2023**

On the occasion of MSME Day, Mr. Michel FOSSAERT, WUSME Board Member, and Mr. Michele ORZAN, WUSME Ambassador in Austria, attended the "SME and Entrepreneurship Stakeholder Dialogue" event organized by OECD in Paris on 26 June 2023 in preparation of the ministerial meeting of 27-28 June 2023.

The event was aimed at exploring further the private sector's role in the context of the overarching theme of the ministerial, "Managing the Shocks and Transitions – Future-Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies".

The event was also to assess the current situation of SMEs and entrepreneurship, identify main business priorities, opportunities and challenges, and engage in a dialogue with selected Ministers, and then explore an agenda for further action at the private sector level. Discussions carried out during this event will help set the scene for the 27-28 June 2023 OECD SME Ministerial meeting.

The discussions held at the meeting helped prepare the ground for the OECD SME Ministerial Meeting on 27-28 June 2023.

The result of the discussions can be summarized as follows.

Over the past years, the global economy has suffered big shocks that have had a real impact on small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs.

While government support protected SMEs from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, new threats have emerged.

Rising geopolitical tensions and global risks, high inflation, tightening monetary and fiscal policies, labor shortages, high trade barriers and slowing integration in global value chains all contribute to a more challenging business environment for SMEs.

Now, there is an urgent need to accelerate the contribution of SMEs and entrepreneurship to the green and digital transitions and help them to navigate a changing international trade and Investments landscape.

Today this means a big challenge for a lot of SMEs. That means integration into a series of networks, including global production and supply-chain networks and the role of women led-businesses in international trade, knowledge and innovation networks, and skill ecosystems. OECD analyzes how the main policies in place with their 38 members ensure SMEs can integrate these networks and benefit from the ongoing transformations they go through.



WUSME is willing to bring to all SMEs in the world a better support through information and training, sharing best new practices and developing good cooperation with OECD members.

### **WUSME President addressing the INDIA 100-MSME Marathon Boardcast on MSMEs Day 2023**

**28 JUN 2023**

WUSME President Barbara Terenzi addressed the INDIA 100 – MSME Marathon Boardcast organized by the India SME Forum, Partner of the WUSME, to celebrate the MSMEs Day 2023.

In her verbal statement, Ms. Terenzi recalled that “the MSME Day, which was established by the United Nations, celebrates the crucial role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in achieving the 2030 (twenty thirty) Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Invited to address the topic “Breaking the barriers & empowering the potential of female led MSMEs”, the WUSME President highlighted how “it is important to focus on how technology and innovation can help achieve gender equality to accelerate the value given to women in the business world.”

On the occasion of this important Date, Ms. Terenzi also recalled that WUSME Association continues carrying out its commitment to raise the awareness of the institutions so that MSMEs are guided towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

### **WUSME addressing role of MSMEs in a virtual Conference on Employers and Diaspora in Cameroon**

**2 AUG 2023**

On July 29, WUSME Board Member Mr. Michel FOSSAERT spoke at the virtual conference organized by the Cameroonian NGO Think and Do Tank THE OKWELIANS.

The round table was the fourth sequence of a cycle of workshops on “REFOUNDING THE EMPLOYERS” and was dedicated to the DIASPORA, in particular to the theme of “Challenges of an inclusive representativeness, making the diaspora an essential player in the new economic cooperation”.

The seminar focused on “the role of diasporas in building the new employer cooperation” and their involvement within employers in responding to the challenges of our current economy.

Different Speakers, representatives of Employers' organizations, Chambers of Commerce and Entities committed to promoting investment and trade in Cameroon, took the floor to bring their experiences and views.

In his introduction, Mr. Mossadek BALLY, President of the Malian Employers' Organization, gave his testimony on the restructuring of his employers' union, the role that must be played and the need to develop MSMEs in agricultural processing before being able to develop other sectors in order to rebalance social structures.

WUSME highlighted its presence in Africa, in more than 25 countries, and the support provided to African MSMEs.

Mr. Fossaert stressed the need for MSMEs to work in the framework of International Networks. The diaspora offers important assets such as talent, investment opportunities at home and connections across the world. WUSME is a good platform of contacts and

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*in Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 2013 and with UNIDO since 2020*

Strada Borrana, 35 47899 Serravalle - Repubblica di San Marino  
Iscritta nel pubblico Registro delle Associazioni della Rep. di San Marino al n. 350 C.O.E.: SM 23085  
Tel.: +378 0549 991277 [www.wusme.org](http://www.wusme.org)



opportunities for Cameroonian MSMEs to seize and is delighted to associate its action with that of the Cameroonian diaspora through the Okwelians.

### **WUSME at the 32nd meeting of the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance**

**2 OCT 2023**

WUSME delegate and Ambassador in Chile Mr. Alessandro Bozzo attended the 32nd meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance of UNFCCC held on September 26-28, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland and virtually.

The program provided a thorough review of the working documents in relation to the Mandates of the 27th session of the COP and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties as a meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. This included working on reviewing the definitions of Climate Financing, the work related to Article 2 paragraph 1 (c) of the Paris Agreement, as well as the Report on the duplication of Financing for Adaptation. Other topics covered referred to the SFC Forum on "Fair Transition Financing," as well as a review of the "Guide for operating financial institutions including the financial mechanism."

Mr. Bozzo noted how these stages of the project focused mainly on the design, improvement and complementation of the proposals with the contribution of the countries' representatives.

From the perspective of the beneficiary countries, it will be important to know how the benefits will be "capilarized" in such a way to reach all the existing economic units in the countries.

In this sense, MSMEs should be at the center of the projects since they are a very important echelon to reach most of the population, since they represent the vast majority of the existing economic units, where the largest amount of employment is also concentrated. This is even more relevant in the least developed countries where MSMEs can represent very close to 100% of existing companies.

On conclusion of his participation, the WUSME Ambassador also stressed that "There is a high and growing expectation about these projects around the climate and the implementation of them is key. To ensure the success of these programs, it will be essential to carry out different pilot projects and in all the beneficiary countries, in order to verify on the ground how the project behaves in relation to permeating the different bureaucratic barriers that can be faced in the countries, so that the resources reach the objectives of the project in the expected time, in the appropriate quantities and ensuring that they have successful results."



### **PART III. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES**

#### **Outcomes include:**

Through the publication of news on the website and on the digital media as well as the active participation in various initiatives, WUSME informed the different SMEs related institutions and organizations it's linked to, on the mission and principles of the UNGC.

Similar information and recommendations have been expressed to entrepreneurs in individual meetings. Many WUSME members have indicated their intention to join UNGC.

The activity of dissemination, carried out in the reference period, has been considerably extended also thanks to a broader network of WUSME representatives worldwide and a more intense collaboration with WUSME-related SME organizations, following the signing of agreements of collaboration and activation of information exchange.