

OUR MISSION

- *Unlock the potential of SMEs*
- *Make economic growth inclusive*
- *Accelerate SME development, trade and employment. Globally.*



The World SME Forum is a private sector-led initiative that supports SME development worldwide, by providing representation in international bodies and facilitating access to finance, global value chains and markets.

The WSF will amplify the voice of SMEs and unlock their potential and stimulate economic growth, trade and employment. The WSF is designed to be an enduring platform that contributes to the Group of Twenty (G20)'s overall mission of sustainable global economic growth.

On 16 November 2015, G20 leaders welcomed the establishment of WSF in their Antalya Summit communiqué. WSF is the Business Network Partner for the 2016 China Business 20 (B20) SME Development Taskforce.



FOR SME ADVANCEMENT GLOBALLY
An initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), and World Chambers Federation (WCF)



The World Bank Group (WBG), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Trade Center (ITC) are the institutional partners of WSF.

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CONTEXT

Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 60 percent of the global workforce. SMEs provide social stability, equitable growth and poverty alleviation, and form the backbone of the working middle class in most countries. The SME sector is vital to the world economy, and small business is the powerhouse of employment, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. Small productivity gains for SMEs can have large positive ripple effects on GDP growth and jobs.

Unfortunately, as it is widely recognized, the potential for SMEs has not been fully realized due to:

- Lack of official SME representation or advocacy both at country and international levels
- Lack of support facilities that deliver technical skills and expertise essential to well-functioning SMEs
- Lack of effective mechanisms to link promising SMEs to potential markets and global value chains

In response, the WSF will:

- Provide SMEs with effective representation in international bodies that either directly or indirectly affect SME performance and development, to ensure they can compete fairly in both domestic and international markets
- Partner with international financial institutions, development agencies, associations and chambers to advance the SMEs' role in the global economy
- Help SMEs achieve sustainable efficiency and competitiveness through advisory, technical assistance and digital platforms

The WSF aims to assume a leadership role in major international events related to SMEs and deliver state-of-the-art knowledge accessible by SMEs all over the world by utilizing advanced communications, and digital platforms to maximize reach to SMEs everywhere.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Not-for-profit
- Global
- Independent
- Demand-driven
- Pragmatic
- By private sector, for private sector

OUR FOCUS:

The WSF will provide an inclusive and open global platform for partnerships and cooperation for the worldwide development of SMEs. The work of the WSF will be structured under three pillars in order to tackle major bottlenecks that impede SME growth:

Advocacy and Research

WSF represents the interests of the global community of SMEs at international governmental bodies such as the Group of Twenty (G20), Business Twenty (B20), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); global standard setting entities and relevant United Nations bodies.

Advisory Services

WSF offers advisory services and technical assistance to chambers of commerce and SME associations on standards, certification, credit reporting and scoring, and linkages to global value chains.

eWSF - One Stop Shop for SMEs

eWSF will provide digital access to finance, markets, global value chains, networks, innovation, skills, training, expertise, and information.

WSF will deliver its services through its experienced, specialized and global technical staff as well through its national and international partners.

WSF will collaborate with the full spectrum of government, business and policy stakeholders who are also committed to accelerate SMEs' contribution to global economic growth and employment.



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