

Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

Republic of Mauritius

In collaboration with

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
(Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa & Africa Trade Policy Center)**



ECA
Southern Africa Office



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**NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON
THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN MAURITIUS**

Draft Programme

Wednesday 23 March & Thursday 24 March 2022

Wednesday 23 March 2022 – Day 1: Policy Dialogue on Manufacturing Sector

OPENING SESSION	
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome Address by Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman-Ahmed , <i>Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division)</i>
09:35 – 09:45	Address by Ms. Isatou Gaye , <i>Chief, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa</i>
09:45 – 09:55	Address by Mr Robert Banamwana , <i>Strategic Planning and Team Leader, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator</i>
09:55 – 10:05	Address by His Excellency, Mr. Vincent Degert , <i>Ambassador of European Union to Mauritius</i>
10:05 – 10:20	Keynote Address by Honourable Soomilduth Bholah , <i>Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives</i>
10:20 – 10:35	<i>Tea/ Coffee Break</i>
PLENARY SESSIONS	
10:35 – 10:50	The implementation of the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (2020-2025) Dr. Rishi Domun , <i>Principal Industrial Analyst, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division)</i>
10:50 – 11:05	Private sector perspectives on the manufacturing sector Dr. Yousouf Ismaël , <i>Secretary General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)</i>
11:05 – 11:20	Stimulating local production Mr. Bruno Dubarry , <i>Chief Executive Officer, Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM)</i>
11:20– 11:35	Boosting productivity of manufacturing enterprises Mr. Dev Appalswamy , <i>Director Capacity Development, Corporate Services and Operations, National Productivity and Competitiveness Council</i>
11:35– 12:15	<i>Q & A</i>
12:15 -13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
PLENARY SESSIONS	
13:15– 13:30	Opportunities for the Mauritian Manufacturing sector from the AfCFTA Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky , <i>Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa</i>
13:30 – 13:45	Leveraging market opportunities through FTAs Mrs. S. Ramjanally-Nuthay , <i>Principal Trade Analyst, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (International Trade Division)</i>
13:45 – 14:00	Support Schemes for the manufacturing sector Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing , <i>Director, Industry, Economic Development Board</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Facilitating the development of MSMEs through Support Schemes Mr. Ravin Rampersad , <i>Chief Executive Officer, SME Mauritius Ltd</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Supporting modernisation and the adoption of technologies associated with Industry 4.0 Mr. Suryadev Beedasy , <i>Chief Executive Officer, Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius Ltd</i>
14:30 – 14:35	Skills Development Schemes by the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Dr. (Mrs.) Tehjal Vaghjee Rajiah , <i>Senior Research and Development Officer, HRDC</i>
14:35 – 15:00	<i>Q&A</i>
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
HIGH-LEVEL BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR	
15:15 – 16:15	<i>Moderated by Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa</i> Panelists: 1. Mr. Sanjiv Mulloo , <i>Chairman, Mauritius Standards Bureau</i> 2. Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing , <i>Director, Industry, EDB</i> 3. Mr. Kevin Ramkaloan , <i>Chief Executive Officer, Business Mauritius</i> 4. Dr. Yousouf Ismaël , <i>Secretary General, MCCI</i> 5. Mr. Bruno Dubarry , <i>Chief Executive Officer, AMM</i>
SUMMARY SESSION	
16:15– 16:30	Way Forward

Thursday 24 March 2022 – Day 2: Policy Dialogue on Textile & Clothing Sub Sector

WELCOME SESSION	
09:30 – 09:35	Opening Remarks by Mrs. Bibi Fatwma Abdool Raman-Ahmed , <i>Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division)</i>
09:35 – 09:50	The Mauritius Textile & Apparel Sector from the Perspective of the IPSP Professor Justin Barnes , <i>International Consultant (Virtual mode)</i>
09:50 – 10:05	<i>Tea/ Coffee Break</i>
PLENARY SESSIONS	
10:05 – 10:25	Positioning Mauritius as a Strategic Hub for Textile and Apparel Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing , <i>Director, Industry, Economic Development Board</i>
10:25 – 10:45	Stimulating creativity, fashion and design Dr. (Mrs.) Sabrina Ramsamy Iranah , <i>Director, Fashion and Design Institute (TBC)</i>
10:45 – 11:05	The Textile and Apparel Factory of the Future Mr. Kendall Tang , <i>Chief Executive Officer, RT Knits Ltd</i>
11:05 - 11:20	Fostering Automation, Robotics and IIOT in the Manufacturing Sector: A Skills Perspective Dr. (Mrs.) Tehjal Vaghjee Rajiah , <i>Senior Research and Development Officer, Human Resource Development Council</i>
HIGH – LEVEL “SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS” OF THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR	
11:20 – 12:30	<i>Moderated by Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa</i> Panelists: 1. Dr. (Mrs.) Sabrina Ramsamy Iranah , <i>Director, Fashion and Design Institute</i> 2. Mr. Geerish Bucktowonsing , <i>Director, Industry, EDB</i> 3. Mr. Kendall Tang , <i>Chief Executive Officer, RT Knits Ltd</i> 4. Mrs. Jenny Pidial , <i>Chief Executive Officer, Fit-U-Garments Ltd</i> 5. Representatives of Textile and Clothing Enterprises
12:30 - 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
CLOSING SESSION	
13:30 – 15:00	Proposals for the Way Forward and Concluding Remarks by Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Ms. Isatou Gaye , <i>Chief, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa</i>
15:00	<i>Tea/ Coffee Break</i>

20 March 2022