

## INVITATION

### Regional Policy Dialogue “SMME Development and inclusive Business – Enabling Environment for successful entrepreneurship”

**June 28, 2013, 8:30 am, Park Inn Hotel, 118 Katherine Street, Sandton, South Africa**

The Southern Africa Trust is pleased to invite you to the above Regional Policy Dialogue on SMME development and inclusive business to be held at the Park inn Hotel in Sandton, South Africa.

SMMEs are universally acknowledged as effective instruments for employment generation and economic growth. However, their low success rate in Africa is indicative of the many challenges small businesses face. Therefore, the Southern Africa Trust undertook a research study with local partners to analyse SMME development and possible options in southern Africa. The research focussed on the enabling environment for SMME development and also analysed the options of linkages between SMMEs and larger firm based on the concept of inclusive business, which is defined as the profitable integration of the poor into the value chain of a company.

The Regional Policy Dialogue will analyse the communalities and significant differences revealed in the five country studies and National Policy Dialogues. These communalities and differences of SMME development will then be discussed against the SADC Industrial Development Policy Framework (IDPF), its relevant existing regional instruments and the concept of Global Value Chains. Challenges, success stories and recommendations will be discussed with representatives from SADC, governments, SMME-supporting agencies, larger firms, SMMEs, regional and national business associations, civil society organisations, academia and other players.

The Dialogue shall result in a joint Action Plan at SADC level, in particular with regard to possible amendments for the SADC Industrial Development Policy Framework (IDPF) and the relevant instruments for implementation. The resulting recommendations will be used to formulating a best practice framework for SMME development with a long-term vision.

**We herewith invite you to take part in that Regional Policy Dialogue.**

The Southern Africa Trust will pay the conference package. However per diems will not be paid. For those who will need to fly, the Southern Africa trust will pay flights, accommodation and transport.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We are looking forward to meet you at the Policy Dialogue!

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ullrich Klins

## Agenda

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08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and Introduction <i>(Facilitator)</i>
09:10 – 09:45	SMME Development and inclusive business in the context of the Global Value Chain <i>(Dr Theminkosi Mhlongo)</i>
09:45 – 10:30	The SADC Industrial Development Policy Framework (IDPF) and relevant SADC Policy Instruments - Presentation and Discussion <i>(SADC Representative, tbd)</i>
10:30 – 10:50	Tea Break
10:50 – 12:10	Lessons from the Country Studies and National Policy Dialogues – Presentation and Discussion <i>(Southern Africa Trust and 5 Local partners)</i>
12:10 – 13:00	Break away sessions: How to match the SADC Industrial Development Policy Framework (IDPF) and Global Value Chain - requirements for an adequate enabling environment for SMME development in the region
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Key findings from break away sessions and way forward <i>(Facilitator)</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Closing <i>(Southern Africa Trust)</i>