



Insurance &  
Risk Finance  
Facility

**UNDP – Generali**

**ACCELERATING SMES' RESILIENCE IN A  
WORLD OF GROWING CLIMATE RISKS**

**SIDE EVENT @COP28**

**6 DECEMBER 2023 – ITALIAN PAVILION**

# 1. EVENT DETAILS

## 1.1 The event at a glance

**When:** Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 11.30 AM – 1.00 PM (GMT+4)

**Where:** COP28 – Italian Pavilion, Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**Hosted by:** Generali in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNDP Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFF) and UNDP Rome Center

**Format:** With the objective of sparking conversation around the topic of SMEs journey to climate resilience, this event aims at creating awareness and enable a solution-focused discussion with Italian, EU and International institutions to drive sustainable development and climate adaptation for SMEs around the world, and mostly for those of most vulnerable countries.

The event will consist of a high-level segment presentation and a leaders' dialogue.

**Language:** The event will be conducted in English

**Stakeholders:** Representatives of Generali, UNDP, the EU Commission, the Italian Government and Ambassadors

**Audience:** Policy experts, corporate leaders, NGOs, SMEs, climate advocates and Parties accredited at COP28

### High-level agenda:

#### 11.30 AM – 1.00 PM (GMT+4) - Event:

- Welcome and opening remarks:
  - **Lucia Silva**, Group Chief Sustainability Officer Generali
- High-level presentation on main SME EnterPrize Asia Report: how to identify potential innovative solutions to address key risks faced by SMEs, drawing on emerging technology and global demonstration cases
  - **Lauren Carter**, Head of External Engagement for UNDP's Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFF)
- Leaders dialogue on actions and programs undertaken for the promotion of new, resilient economic opportunities for SMEs around the world:
  - **Lucia Silva**, Group Chief Sustainability Officer Generali
  - **Jan Kellett**, Team Leader, Insurance and Risk Finance Facility, UNDP
  - **Stefano Signore**, Head of Unit, Green Deal, Digital Agenda - Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA – EU Commission)
  - **Ekhosuehi Iyehen**, Secretary General, Insurance Development Forum (IDF)
  - **Malaysian Ambassador / Thailand Ambassador** – TBC / Opening or keynote speech to be evaluated
- Closing remarks:

- **Agostino Inguscio** - Coordinator Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition  
UNDP

## 2. Concept Note

Working title: “**Accelerating SMEs’ resilience in a world of growing climate change**”

- In most countries, the private sector accounts for more than 60% of GDP, and SMEs in developing countries provide around 60% of all employment, supporting the livelihoods of billions globally
- Adaptation to climate change is not optional, but an essential element in the pursuit of prosperity in the long term. In the face of a changing climate, vulnerable communities benefit by being more resilient to extreme weather, businesses thrive when they better manage risk and harness new opportunities, and governments succeed when they lead resilient and strong economies
- Policymakers need to engage with SMEs in a targeted way. Policies which direct and redirect investments toward appropriate products and services will support, facilitate, and advance adaptation at scale. For businesses, it is in their best interests to invest in adaptation because they must ensure business continuity and profitability in a changing climate
- Our event aims to draw attention on SMEs in times of such growing threats from climate change and climate-related risks and spread public and private awareness that both sectors have an important role to play in safeguarding vulnerable communities and helping to develop SME capacities to manage risks
- In a first step, the risks SMEs are exposed to, especially in developing countries, should be highlighted. How does climate change impact their business activities? Are SMEs - in an international comparison - more likely to be threatened by property damage or by business interruption due to climate change etc.?
- Furthermore, an understanding is to be created on what SME resilience to climate risks means and why an integrated approach (e.g. Integrated Climate/Disaster Risk Management - ICDRM) makes sense
- As a result, actions and programs that are undertaken by the public sector (EU Commission and Italian ecosystem), by international institutions (UNDP) and by the private sector (Generali) to create the right incentives for the promotion of new, resilient economic opportunities should be presented
- The intention is to show that through this type of engagements, the public and private sectors can become more active agents of change in advancing resilience in SMEs development process
- In the end, a comparison with the climate risk-resilience of SMEs in developed countries can stimulate further discussion on whether certain experiences and learnings can be transferred to developing countries
- The ultimate goal of our event is to spur further thinking and action in countries around the world on different ways in which resilience to climate change can be promoted