



Industrial Development Board

Forty-eighth session

Vienna, 23–25 November 2020

Item 19 of the provisional agenda

**Matters related to intergovernmental,
non-governmental, governmental and other
organizations**

Application from a non-governmental organization for consultative status

Note by the Director General

The present document provides information on the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises (WUSME), a non-governmental organization applying for consultative status with UNIDO.

1. In accordance with Article 19.1 (b) of the Constitution of UNIDO and the Guidelines for the Relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (decision GC.1/Dec.41), in particular paragraph 17 of the annex thereto, information on the World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises (WUSME), a non-governmental organization (NGO) seeking consultative status with UNIDO, is circulated to the members of the Board in the annex to the present document. More detailed information on the NGO is available with the Secretariat.
2. Paragraph 17 of the annex to the Guidelines, stipulates that the Board shall establish appropriate procedures for reviewing applications from NGOs for consultative status. In line with the procedures established by the Board at its forty-fifth session (IDB.45/Dec.16), the Enlarged Bureau of the Board shall review the present application of, and information on, the NGO referred to in the annex to the present application at its meeting prior to the forty-eighth session and submit its recommendations to the Bureau of the Board. The Bureau shall consider the application and recommendations of the Enlarged Bureau at its first meeting on 23 November 2020.
3. At the subsequent plenary meeting, the President of the forty-eighth session shall inform the Board of the Bureau's recommendation on the application and with the approval of the Bureau, the President shall present a draft decision to the Board for adoption.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



Annex

World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises (WUSME)

Historical background

WUSME was founded in 2010 in the Republic of San Marino, under the auspices of the Government and public institutions.

The founders of WUSME were a group of entrepreneurs from San Marino and 53 other countries, committed to create an organization which would be a focal point for small enterprises, a place to exchange knowledge and experience, and a tool for boosting stronger international cooperation.

Statutes

Available.

Structure of governing bodies and administration

- General assembly;
- Board of Directors;
- President;
- General Secretary;
- Permanent Commissions;
- WUSME Senators.

Activities related to the work of UNIDO

With its network of 150 institutional representatives in 100 countries and relationships with several SME organizations, WUSME represents small and medium-sized enterprises operating worldwide in various sectors – such as agriculture, commerce, crafts and industry – interested in successful development, and in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations climate goals. Through its website, newsletters and quarterly magazines, WUSME provides its members with information to help them take business decisions, in particular by offering key figures and facts about macroeconomic trends. WUSME monitors surveys and reports of the World Bank and discusses through its representatives how to remove existing obstacles to development, such as access to finance, access to electricity, enforcement of contracts and tackling corruption.

With its associated member organizations and representatives, WUSME could actively contribute to UNIDO's SME policy in the following areas:

- Risk management guide for SMEs;
- Development of micro, small and medium enterprises;
- Credit guarantee schemes for SMEs;
- Helping SMEs achieve the SDGs, including climate neutrality.

WUSME aligns itself with UNIDO's priorities with regards to circular economy, industry and crafts, sustainable energy, women and youth entrepreneurship. WUSME would also be ready to organize related side events at UNIDO events and conferences, and publish relevant UNIDO information via its media outlets.

Relations with the United Nations, other IGOs and NGOs

WUSME has special consultant status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was admitted by the Conference of the Parties as observer

organization to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It also cooperates with the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union.

Membership

WUSME has 857 members, including for the most part companies, WUSME ambassadors and permanent representatives, and individuals.

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