

AIDE-MEMOIRE

UNIDO side event at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2016

Strengthening international SMEs alliances between the Russian Federation and Latin America and the Caribbean

13-15 June 2016

Hotel Moskva
Alexander Nevsky sq. 2
St. Petersburg
Russian Federation



MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
DE LA FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA

BACKGROUND

THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations system dedicated to promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the developing countries and in the economies in transition, and to fostering international industrial cooperation.

UNIDO provides a variety of technical cooperation services, and acts as a global forum for the accumulation, analysis and dissemination of knowledge in the field of industrial development. The Strategic Long-term Vision Statement of the Organization, adopted by its Member States at the eleventh session of the General Conference in December 2005, groups these activities into three thematic priority areas: Creating Shared Prosperity, Advancing Economic Competitiveness, and Safeguarding the Environment. In addition, it provides for UNIDO to promote South-South cooperation.

Based on the successful experience of the last four UNIDO-GRULAC Expert Group Meetings (2006, 2007, 2011 and 2012) and the two Ministerial Conferences (Lima, December 2013; San Jose, April 2014), organized by the LAC Bureau jointly with GRULAC and respective LAC governments emerged the request in the efforts to expand the international trade to new, nontraditional markets.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) represents a region which counts with steady economic growth and an increasing number of trade and investment opportunities. These circumstances reflect the rising interest in deepening integration and establishing effective commitments for joint actions to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

To achieve the goal it is important to raise the presence of the region in forums on major issues and events on the global agenda strengthening cooperation on areas of common interest which cannot remain on a regional level. The aim is to build a common space with the purpose of deepening the political, economic, social and cultural integration focusing on dialogue, interaction and synergy among the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to deepen integration and accelerate regional development.

One of LAC's main objectives is the diversification of its markets and investments: Nontraditional partner countries are their priorities. Opportunities with the Eurasian Economic Union are, for instance, in the agro business, metal finishing and service industry through the strengthening of partnerships and strategic alliances. However, there is the lack of qualified information related on the regulations and mechanisms governing the trade and business strategic alliances in the EAEU countries. Hence, in order to promote technical cooperation it is necessary to identify and implement South-South and triangular strategies.

Therefore, interregional cooperation is an important component for achieving this goal that reflects the common vision of Latin America and the Caribbean in promoting international dialogues.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (RF)

The Russian Federation is high-income country with GDP PPP per capita of USD 22,989 in 2014.

For the sustainable economic development of the Russian Federation, the development of strong SME segment is an essential factor. In 2012-2013 years, the share of SME in GDP was estimated at 20-25%, which was not only significantly lower than in developed countries, but in comparable developing ones as well. To solve the underrepresentation of SME segment, the government developed a series of measures in particularly in the 2007 “SME Law” that for the first time created a shared definition of SMEs and set out the arrangements for policy support. The main measures concern reduction of the administrative burden, financial support, property support, and support for innovative SMEs.

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (**SPIEF**) (leading business event held every year since 1997 attracting over 3 000 attendees), has been held under the patronage of the President of the Russian Federation. SPIEF gathers the world’s leading decision makers (governmental and business leaders from around the world, joined by leading voices from academia, media and civil society) to identify and deliberate the key challenges facing Russia, emerging markets and the world and engage communities to find common purpose and establish frameworks to forge solutions.

LAC AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Eurasian Economic Union and LAC region has been holding a regular dialogue, on issues of trade facilitation and removing barriers in trade, as well as investment cooperation to taking advantage of the mutual potentials.

THE SIDE EVENT

Following up on the successful workshop (organized by UNIDO and financially supported by the Russian Federation) “Strengthening International Alliances in the Global Market” in July 2015 between LAC-BRICS and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), UNIDO is keen to strengthen further strategic alliances between LAC countries and the RF market, fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) between the regions.

Therefore, the International SMEs Forum as well as the International Economic Forum (SPIEF’16) in St. Petersburg provide the wanted platform. In consequence, UNIDO in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Russian Federation organize the **UNIDO side event at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2016 - Strengthening international SMEs alliances between the Russian Federation and Latin America and the Caribbean (SPIEF’16)**.

The UNIDO side event starts **on 13 June and ends on 15 June 2016**. The program (see agenda attached) begins with the **UNIDO Roundtable from 13-14 June 2016 with the regional blocks** (CARICOM, CAN, SIECA and MERCOSUR) presenting instruments of promotion and export opportunities to Russia.

In addition, the Russian Federation will also provide a presentation on market opportunities, logistics, retailers, networks, customs and tariffs addressed to the LAC countries.

The side event will provide the unique occasion to exchange necessary information and enhance the trade between the two regions in priority sectors. Participants will obtain first-hand information on export opportunities and establish promising business agreements with the Russian Federation.

Moreover, the attendees of the side event **will attend the International SMEs Forum on 15 June 2016** in the framework of the SPIEF'16. UNIDO will organize a panel discussion with the different LAC regional blocks (CARICOM, CAN, SIECA and MERCOSUR) at this forum. The panel discussion of around an hour will provide the opportunity for every **speaker of the regional blocks to highlight major business opportunities of the regional block within 10-15 minutes**. Therefore, it will be necessary to be very concise. The speaker will be selected during the sessions on 14 June 2016.

The LAC participants will also have the chance to **exhibit promotion material from the respective countries** during the SMEs Forum and to create business contacts with the Russian Federation.

For more details, please see tentative agenda attached.

In addition, UNIDO is facilitating the participation in the **St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF'16)**, taking place from 16-18 June 2016. Considering the **extraordinary opportunity of this major international business event with the world's leading decision makers** (governmental and business leaders from around the world, joined by leading voices from academia, media and civil society), UNIDO highly encourages to extend the stay in St. Petersburg **on own costs**. For more information please visit: <https://www.forumspb.com/>.

The city of St. Petersburg is known for its long summer days and almost inexistent evenings starting in May until July. With around 24° degrees, this lively period is also known as white nights.

DATE AND VENUE

The UNIDO side event at the St. Petersburg International SMES and Economic Forum 2016 - Strengthening international SMEs alliances between the Russian Federation and Latin America and the Caribbean (SPIEF'16) will take place on:

13 June 2016

Inauguration and business networking dinner at Moskva Hotel
Alexander Nevsky sq. 2, St Petersburg, Russia, 191317

14 June 2016

Hotel Moskva
Alexander Nevsky sq. 2, St Petersburg, Russia, 191317
Business networking dinner

15 June 2016

EXPOFORUM Convention and Exhibition Centre
64/1 Peterburgskoye Shosse, St. Petersburg, Russia

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

1. Head of Agencies of National Export facilitation agencies from LAC countries
2. Major stakeholder from the private sector (one or two representatives suggested by heads of export promotion agencies)

UNIDO and the Government of the Russian Federation reserve the right to decide upon the participation of the second and third delegate.

Selected participants will be appointed in specific roundtable and are requested to hold presentation on major export opportunities to the Russian Federation (approx. 10 minutes).

Participants are requested to send the presentations **until 3 June 2016**.

More information will be provided accordingly.

TRAVEL-RELATED ARRANGEMENTS

VISAS

Citizens of some countries may need an entry visa to the Russian Federation. Should participants need an entry visa please contact the nearest Russian Embassy or Consulate with sufficient anticipation prior to your travel to St. Petersburg.

UNIDO will assist with the required supporting evidences.

TRAVEL

1. Airline tickets

UNIDO only covers costs of the heads of LAC export promotion agencies in economy class.

Additional participants of the private sector are responsible to cover the costs of round-trip air transportation to St. Petersburg.

All participants are required to have health travel insurance.

3. Accommodation

All meals, hotel accommodation and transport from Airport – Hotel –Airport of all the participants will be covered by UNIDO.

UNIDO will provide transport to the venue.

4. Daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

No DSA is paid.

Logistic support from airport will be organized by UNIDO.

5. Costs not covered by UNIDO

UNIDO will not assume responsibility for any other costs which may be incurred by the participants while attending the meeting, including but not limited to:

- Any expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditures for passports, visas, and other miscellaneous items, as well as airport transfers in the participants' home countries and Quito;
- Salary and social benefits for the participants during the period of the conference;
- Costs incurred by participants with respect to any insurance, medical bills, and hospitalization fees;
- Compensation in the event of death, disability, or illness;
- Loss of or damage to personal property;
- Purchase of personal belongings and compensation for damage caused to them by climatic or other considerations;
- Costs incurred by participants with respect to travel, other than to the costs of airfare and daily subsistence allowance as explained above;
- Travel and any other costs incurred by dependants who might accompany the participants.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Financial and administrative arrangements for the participants invited and accepted by UNIDO will be made in accordance with UNIDO's rules and regulations.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Hotel Moskva is situated in the historical center of Saint-Petersburg, near Nevsky Prospekt, on the Neva embankment. The rooms overlook the architectural ensemble of Alexander Nevsky Lavra and the Neva River.

During the summer white nights you can observe retraction of the Alexander Nevsky Bridge. Metro station is in the hotel building and in 20-25 minutes you will be able to reach major historical attractions such as the Hermitage, Admiralty, Russian museum.

Address:

Alexander Nevsky sq. 2, St Petersburg, Russia, 191317

<http://www.hotel-moscow.ru/en/>

Potential free entrance to the SPIEF'16 from 16 – 18 June 2016 will be granted for the participants of the UNIDO Workshop (usual participation fee is 6100 USD). Therefore, we encourage the participants to extend their stay until 19 June 2016.

Nonetheless, **UNIDO only covers the hotel accommodation for 4 nights.**

The bookings will be made by UNIDO in accordance to the agreed travel schedule. Participants travelling from LAC are expected to arrive not earlier than 13th of June 2016.

Departure is scheduled latest on Sunday 19th of June 2016.

UNIDO will book the flight back to departing country on 16 June 2016 in case no specification will be provided.

To ensure appropriate organization kindly **return the “Private sector fact sheet information” (please see attachment)** as well as the **passport copy of the participants until 13 May 2016:**

ENQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

All enquiries and correspondence on the UNIDO side event should be addressed to:

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AGENDA

Interregional Forum: Strengthening International SMEs Alliances between the Russian Federation and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) - a side event at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF'16) Hotel Moskva, St. Petersburg, 13-15 June 2016

Time	Sunday 12 June	Monday 13 June	Tuesday 14 June	Wednesday 15 June	Thursday 16 June	
07:00 - 08:00	Arrival of LAC participants and UNIDO Registration	UNIDO Roundtable	UNIDO Roundtable	UNIDO LAC side event at International SMEs Forum	Departure / Optional attendance to SPIEF Forum	
09:00		UNIDO - LAC City sight-seeing tour in St. Petersburg	Presentation of Export Promotion Agencies LAC Roundtable CARICOM Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Dominican Republic and Cuba	International SMEs Forum Panel discussion (1h) Speakers of LAC region - Export opportunities to the Russian market by region: - UNIDO - CARICOM - CAN - SIECA - MERCOSUR Exhibition of LAC promotion material		
10:00			Roundtable CAN Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru			
11:00			Roundtable SIECA (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) + Mexico			
12:00			Round Table MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela) and Chile	Business networking Exhibition of LAC promotion material		
13:00			Working Lunch			
14:00			Presentation of the Russian Federation Market opportunities, logistics, retailers networks, customs and tariffs			
18:00			Opening session Inauguration UNIDO Introduction to Workshop LAC + RF participants Certificates Closure of Session			
19:00			Business Networking Dinner	Business Networking Dinner		Farewell Event
20:00						

