



## Mobilising commercial finance and enterprise support services for SMEs

Meeting for DCED members, 16 June 2025, Geneva

### Logistical information

**Date and time:** Monday, 16 June 2025, 10:30-13:00 CET

Information on the overall schedule of the DCED Annual Meetings 16 – 19 June is [available online](#).

### Session outline

The DCED is grounded in the reality that the private sector at large, and SMEs in particular, can thrive and create positive change when embedded in appropriate support systems. This includes access to finance and business services.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, the Argidius Foundation organised the thematic day on 'SMEs: The Transforming Middle', bringing a renewed focus to the topic in the DCED.

In the 2024 DCED Member Survey, fourteen members referred to finance, in various forms, as a priority. The most frequently mentioned topics included: 1) SME financing, 2) access to Business Development Services and Enterprise Support Organisations, and 3) nurturing entrepreneurship ecosystems.

In response to the importance members attach to the topic, the DCED Secretariat decided to explore how the DCED could add value to the topic. As a first step, a member consultation was held on 6 May 2024. Later that same year, the Global DCED Seminar in Nairobi included four sessions focusing on the SME finance landscape (including banks, local capital providers, fund of funds, DFIs and PSD actors).

In the 2025 DCED Member Survey, mobilising SME finance again surfaced as a member priority. In the changing donor landscape, the ability to mobilise commercial finance for investment in emerging and frontier markets, in what are perceived to be higher-risk ventures, is becoming more important.

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, the DCED invites members interested in this topic to come together, discuss how the DCED can add value, and agree on tangible next steps. If there is appetite among members, a task force can be formed to help institutionalise the topic within the DCED.

A more detailed agenda will be published closer to date of the meeting. Members who want to bring in points for discussion are invited to contact [Harald Bekkers](#), DCED Deputy Coordinator, who will facilitate the discussion, who will facilitate the discussion.

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