

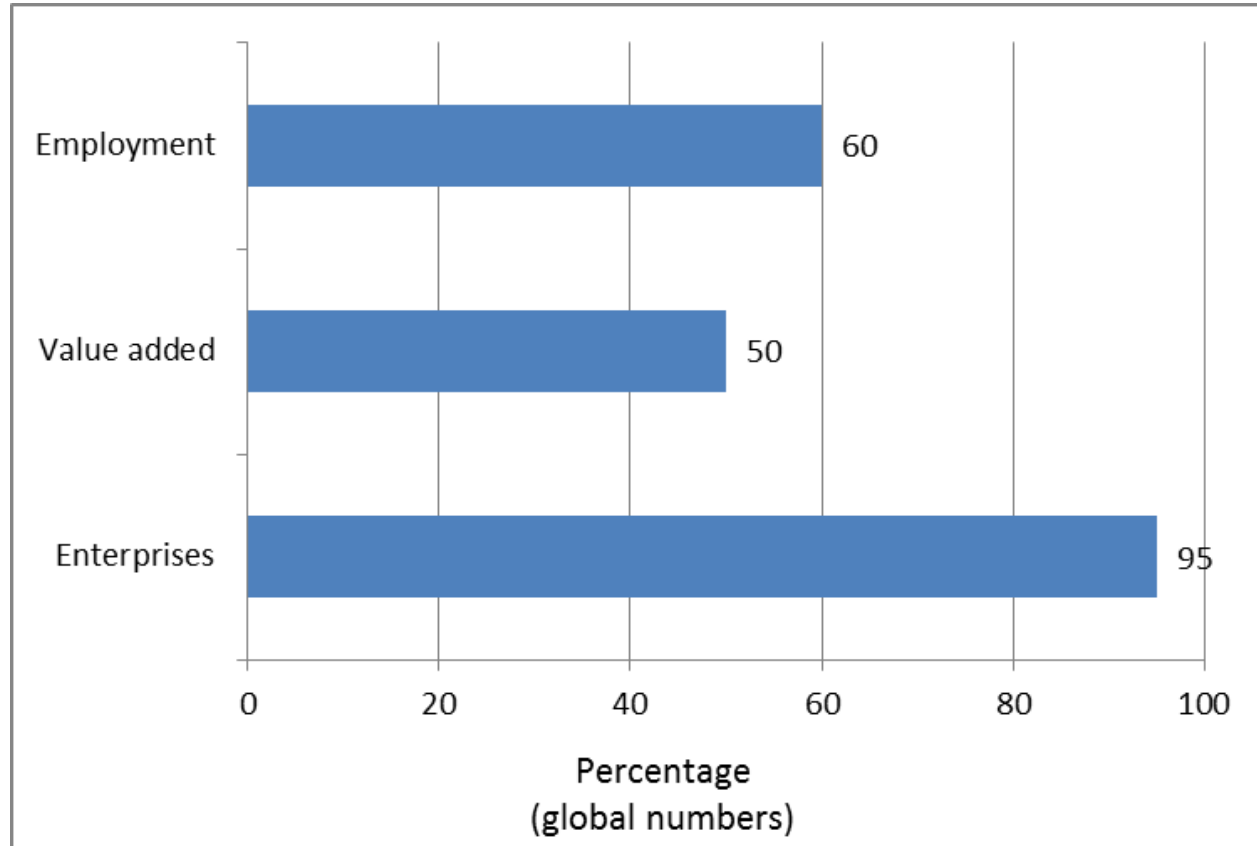
The WTO and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

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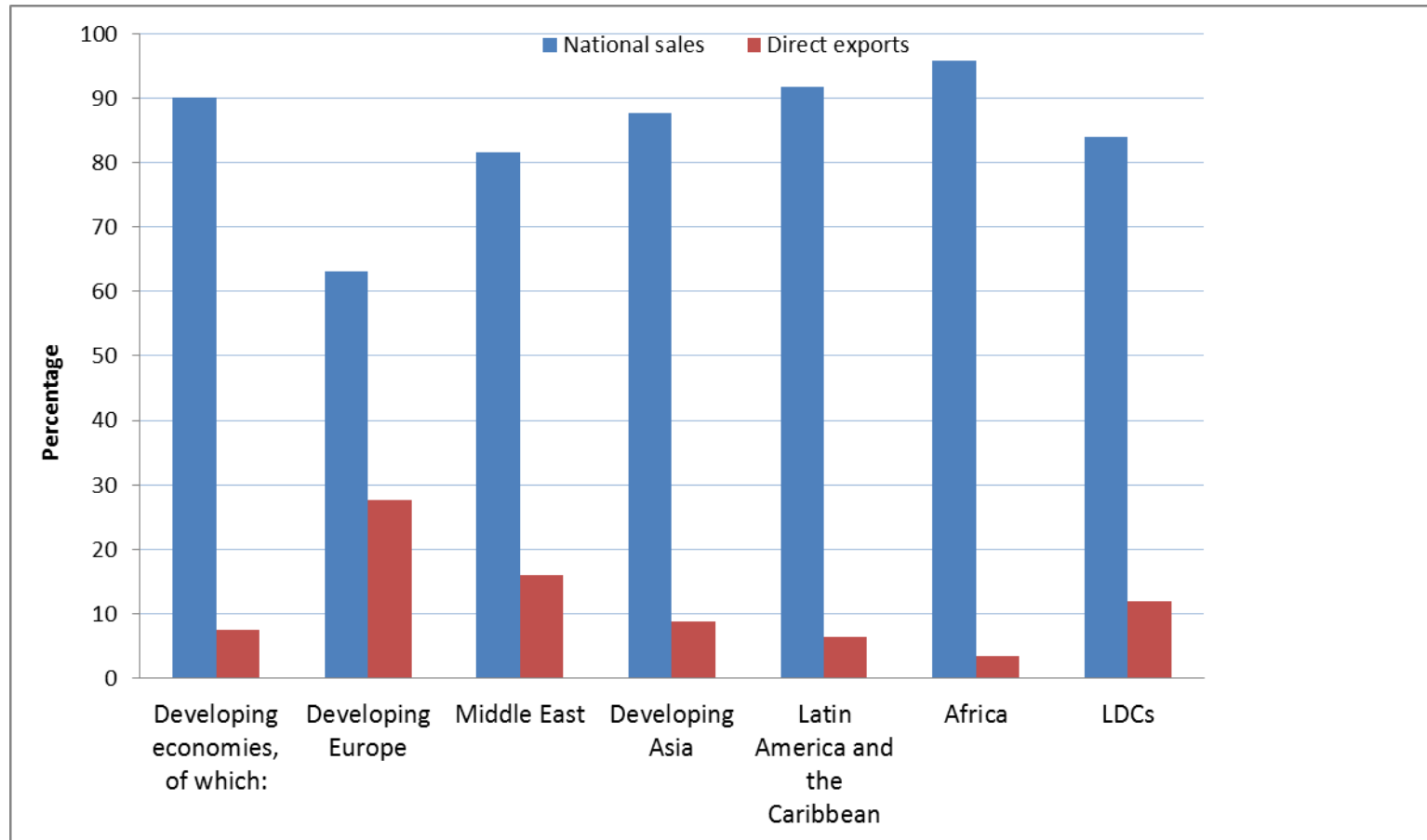
1. Why focus on MSMEs?
2. How can the WTO help?
3. What is being discussed?

MSMEs are key economic actors



Source: WTO

▶ Exports are a small share of MSME sales



Source: WTO estimates based on World Bank Enterprise Surveys

▶ MSMEs face many trade challenges

- Lack of skills and knowledge about international markets
 - issue of access to information
- Limited digital connectivity (developing countries)
- High fixed costs
- Non-tariff measures
- Access to finance (Rejection rate > 50% for SMEs)

How can the WTO help?

- ▶ Transparency, provide access to information
- ▶ Simplification of trade procedures (e.g., TFA)
- ▶ Increase internal awareness among Members

Existing WTO references to SMEs

- Anti-dumping and SCM agreement:
"[t]he authorities shall take due account of any difficulties experienced by interested parties, in particular small companies, in supplying information requested, and shall provide any assistance practicable"
- GPA work programme on SMEs (GPA/113) (2012)
- Work programme on e-commerce and small economies (1998)
 - CTD to examine the “effects of e-commerce on the trade and economic prospects of developing countries, notably of their SMEs, and means of maximizing possible benefits accruing to them”;

What is being discussed?

- ▶ WTO Joint Statement Initiative – MSMEs
- ▶ Other ongoing WTO discussions

MSME Informal Working Group

- ▶ Established in Buenos Aires
(WT/MIN(17)/58/Rev.1)
 - 91 Members – around 80% of world trade
- “horizontal, non-discriminatory solutions”

- ▶ Ministerial Package
 - Transparency cluster
 - Global Trade HelpDesk (<http://www.globaltradehelpdesk.org>)
 - Online web platform
 - Trade Policy Reviews (TPRs)
 - Integrate Database (IDB)
 - Thematic cluster
 - Trade facilitation
 - Access to trade finance
 - Conceptual cluster
 - Regulatory development

- Dialogue with the private sector (Newsletter)
- Coordination with WTO Committees

- ▶ MC12 (date TBD)
 - A ministerial declaration with recommendations:
 - At the level of the WTO: Policy & operational recommendations
 - Recommendations to policy makers

Other ongoing discussions outside the MSME Joint Initiative framework

- Market Access /TBT: discussions on transparency and notifications
- JSI on E-Commerce: e.g., de Minimis
- TRIPS Council: discussions on MSMEs, IP and innovation
- WTO Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance (WGTDF): discussions on how to improve access to finance

- Multiagency partnerships:
 - Aid for Trade (A4T)
 - Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)
 - Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

Information about the WTO and MSMEs can be found at the following link:

- ▶ https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/msmesandtra_e/msmesandtra_e.htm

Thank you

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