

## **Panel: Deepening Business-to-Business Engagement Processes in South Asia**

The political and capacity gaps which have prevented trade and investment integration in South Asia have resulted in losses to businesses in the form of higher import costs (from outside the region), as well as prevented them from exploring non-traditional markets across the region. Enterprise surveys, conducted by regional think tanks, point to a strong intent of manufacturers to source inputs from within South Asia. However, several uncertainties prevent them from making decisions which could help intra-regional trade and investment, and ultimately promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and sustainable livelihoods in the region. This session will be co-organised by SDPI and the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries with the objective to explore:

- How economic prosperity in the region can be reimaged?
- How can business associations in the region strengthen the cause of regional cooperation?
- How can business associations innovate their methods to engage governments of member states?
- How can SMEs be helped through public or private sector support to integrate in regional value chains?

### **Panel Organisers:**

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