



## **ADA Network Summit 2017**

**Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Mexico City, Mexico**

### **1. Introduction**

Since 2008, ADA has been organizing regional network summits in collaboration with SEEP. These workshops bring together partner and non-partner regional and national microfinance networks and professional associations.

ADA has organized a total of 23 network workshops in 19 different countries in Central and South America, South East Asia and Africa.

The objective of these workshops is to provide an opportunity for the networks to exchange on different development strategies for the sector and encourage exchanges of experience and peer learning. The idea is to strengthen their role in the development of the microfinance sector in their regions calling upon their capacity to consult their members and partners and expose their views and positions.

Over the years, topics have varied from region to region depending on the needs, interest and availability of participating organizations with the aim of strengthening their institutional capacity as well as their capacity to offer quality services to their members. In the past years networks have learned and shared best practices on networks' governance, product costing, innovative services, advocacy, sustainability, risk management, social performance and other thematic always related to their challenges and opportunities as member based-institutions.

These workshops are usually organized alongside major regional or global microfinance conferences in order to ensure a maximum participation rate, pool costs and encourage networking with a wider audience.

In 2017, ADA decided to extend its network summit to have a wider outreach and impact by bring together networks and professional associations from all three continents. The event will be organized in coordination with the SPTF alongside their annual general meeting in Mexico.

### **2. Objectives of the workshop**

Microfinance Associations have always been considered as the representatives of the inclusive finance sector at a regional or national level. Their main objectives are to bring together the microfinance institutions (MFIs), build their capacity, promote transparent best practices and advocate for the sound development of the national financial inclusion sector. However, as the sector evolves and the needs and services of MFIs keep changing, how can networks and national professional associations keep up the pace and constantly rethink their role to ensure their relevance and then, their sustainability?

Specifically, the workshop is designed to showcase the experiences of professional associations from all three continents. They will be invited to present their history, the challenges they met over the years, their relationship with their members and donors, their impact on regulation. The presentations will include discussions on their funding strategy, the evolutions of the sector and their members' needs, and how they adapted their services, both commercial and non-commercial, accordingly. Case studies will also be designed to support these presentations.

Participants will then work on group work based on the experiences presented, and use the outcomes and learnings drawn from these to apply them to their day to day operations.

On the other hand, ADA will be able to use the outcomes of the workshop to apply them to its future strategy and its partnerships with professional associations.

In 2017, ADA will be bringing together partner networks and professional associations for them to discuss on the current trends of the sector and the role of microfinance associations. The workshop will also bring together non-partner associations that will contribute to enriching the debate by presenting their success stories and current and future innovative solutions for the sector.

**3. Structure of the event**

The event will take place over one day, a breakdown of the event can be found below.

<b>Preliminary agenda - Network Summit 5 June 2017, Mexico</b>	
9.00 - 9.30	Introduction and presentation of questionnaire results
9.30 - 10.00	Presentation MFA (based on case studies)
10.30 - 11.00	Presentation MFA (based on case studies)
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 12.00	Presentation MFA (based on case studies)
12.00 - 12.30	Presentation MFA (based on case studies)
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.30	Group work
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 - 17.30	Presentation of group work results
17.30 - 18.00	Conclusions

**4. Participants**

Participation to the event is open to all with a priority on national and regional associations.