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## **SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES UNDER USMCA**

### **Ground Breaking Provisions**

- The agreement provides more significant opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs in the region to increase their exports and their participation in global and North American value chains.
  - This chapter promotes cooperation between SMEs' support infrastructure (incubators, accelerators, export assistance centers) by creating international networks to share best practices and promote international trade participation.
  - It seeks to promote the participation of SMEs belonging to underrepresented groups, including women, indigenous people, youth, and minorities, as well as start-ups, agricultural and rural SMEs, in international trade and the exchange of activities and goods related to creative and cultural industries.
  - New provisions intend to reduce costs and bring greater ease and predictability to cross-border transactions for SMEs.
  - A new chapter on digital trade contains the most robust provisions of any international agreement, supporting internet-enabled small businesses and e-commerce exports.
  - The USMCA facilitates U.S. and Mexican SMEs' participation in government procurement by providing notices of intended procurement in a single electronic portal and encouraging it by electronic means, thus increasing transparency and efficiency for small and medium-sized businesses.
  - The agreement eliminates local presence obligations for cross-border service providers, which benefits SMEs by removing the unnecessary burden of opening an international office as a requirement for doing business.