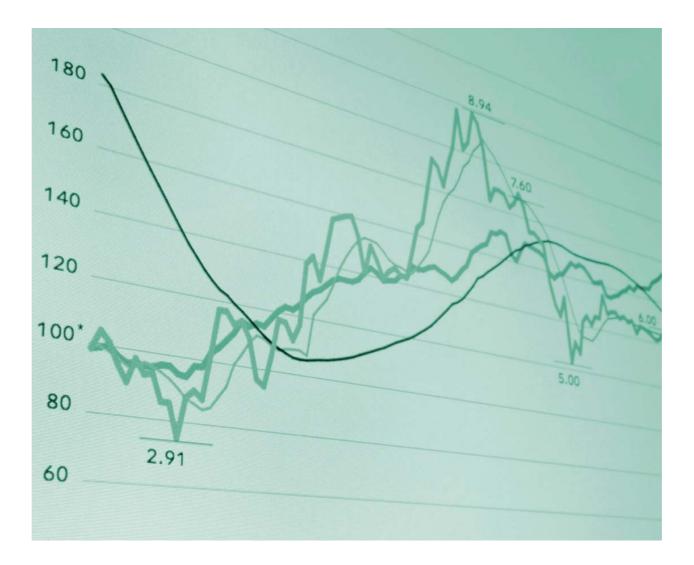


## INCREASING ACCESS TO CREDIT

### REFORMING SECURED TRANSACTION LAW





EXPORT IMPACT FOR GOOD

## INCREASING ACCESS TO CREDIT

REFORMING SECURED TRANSACTION LAWS

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International Trade Centre (ITC) Increasing Access to Credit: Reforming Secured Transaction Laws Geneva: ITC, 2010. xv, 85 pages (Technical paper) Doc. No. BE-10-180.E

Study presenting a framework for developing modern secured transaction laws with a view to promoting the availability of secured credit to commercial enterprises - outlines the principles for an efficient secured transaction law, and provides a methodology for reforming such laws; describes the key features of a secured transactions legal framework, covering scope, creation of security rights, priority rules, effectiveness against third parties, development of a security right register, priority needs and and enforcement; provides a sample questionnaire which could be used to start a secured transactions law reform project.

Descriptors: Commercial Law, Trade Financing, Credit.

For further information on this technical paper, contact Mr Jean-François Bourque, Senior Legal Adviser (Trade Law and Arbitration)

English

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#### Foreword

This study invites national legislators as well as all those involved in enhancing the national business environment to consider secured financing schemes that will allow an increase in the amount of credit offered to SMEs. The reasoning is simple: allow as collateral property that SMEs usually possess; then build a framework so that banks can secure their loans on these collateral on the basis of priority rights over other creditors. As amounts secured are smaller in size, the system must be smarter/better/cheaper than the traditional security systems.

In the fall of 2008, the world financial system came to a near collapse. Following the various rescue plans there came a realization that changes must be made in national regulatory systems, especially with the view of a stronger oversight of megabanks.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were and are still directly hit by the unavailability and cost of credit. However, as George Affaki hints in his study, this is unjustified, considering the good mix of assets that SMEs can often demonstrate. Why then are SMEs as vulnerable to the consequences of the current crisis as larger companies? There is no stock answer but it seems clear that regulatory frameworks often disregard the particular circumstances in which SMEs operate.

This study could not be more timely. It takes the reader's hand through a secured transactions system for SMEs and provides a very practical needs and impact analysis for a national legal reform project.

#### Acknowledgements

This technical paper has been written by Georges Affaki, Global Head of Specialized Financing (Energy, Commodities, Export, Project, Aircraft, Shipping and Global Trade Services (ECEP)) Legal Affairs at BNP Paribas, leading a 20 counsel team based in Paris and coordinating the activity of 71 specialized counsel worldwide. Mr. Affaki is also Vice-Chairman of the Banking Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce; Chairman or member of numerous panels in international banking dispute resolution proceedings (DOCDEX) organized under the aegis of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); Delegate to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) for the drafting of a legislative guide on secured transactions; Member of the Expert Panel on the UN Convention on Independant Guarantees and Stand-by Letters of Credit and on the UN Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade.

Jean-François Bourque, Senior Legal Adviser (Trade Law and Arbitration), supervised the work.

Agnès Barnéoud-Rousset ensured the layout.

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