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WORLD
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Invitation: 8th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

2 September 2021

Dear Madam/Sir,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 8th meeting of the Commentary Group, to take place virtually on 2 September 2021 from 9:00am to 10:30am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:30 Central European Time (CET), 21:00 to 22:30 China Standard Time (CST).

As a reminder, the Commentary Group's mandate is to provide input on the content of a new framework being developed at the WTO to facilitate cross-border investment and increase its development impact.

The meeting will consider how to facilitate investment that is green, gender-equal, and contributes to generating skills (3Gs).

There is increasing interest in facilitating investment that achieves specific development objectives, including investment that is climate positive ("Green FDI"), contributes to gender equality (also known as gender-lens investing), and leads to quality employment, especially through generating skills. The meeting will therefore seek to understand what measures might prove effective in this regard, and whether some investment promotion agencies (IPAs) are starting to target and facilitate such types of investment. A future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) may wish to include provisions to facilitate these kinds of investment, given their importance and prioritization across economies.

The discussions will be informed by "*Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers*", [available here](#).

As with previous meetings, a summary of the discussions will be made available to the WTO's Structured Discussions.

Moderator: Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead, International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum

Panellists:

Laurie J. Spengler, CEO, Courageous Capital Advisors, LLC — "*Strategies for combining and simultaneously unlocking Green, Gender-Equal, and Skills-Generating FDI*"

Penny Naas, President, International Public Affairs and Sustainability, UPS—“*Suggestions from an investor on how to facilitate Green, Gender-Equal, and Skills-Generating FDI*”

Lamberto Dai Pra, Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Enel Green Power—“*Suggestions from an investor on how to facilitate Green, Gender-Equal, and Skills-Generating FDI*”

Sophal Suon, Director, Public Relations and Promotion of Private Investment, Council for the Development of Cambodia—“*Targeting green, gender-equal, and skills-generating FDI – lessons from Cambodia*”

Closing remarks: H.E. Kemvichet Long, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the WTO and other International Organizations—“*Advancing green, gender-equal and skills-generating FDI through investment facilitation at the WTO*”

Conclusions and way forward: Karl P. Sauvart, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00 am CET on 2 September 2021 and follow the instructions.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

We hope that you will be able to participate and ask that you confirm your participation with Yardenne Kagan (ykagan@intracen.org).

With best regards,

Karl P. Sauvart
Columbia University/CCSI
1 212 593-4294
karlsauvant@gmail.com

Matthew Stephenson
World Economic Forum
41 79 265 8986
Matthew.Stephenson@weforum.org

Background information:

ITC-DIE project on [Investment Facilitation for Development](#)

Axel Berger and Karl P. Sauvart, eds., *Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers* (Geneva: ITC, 2021), [available here](#).

Ali Dadkhah, “Developing Comprehensive General and Sector-Based Indicators for Assessing the Contribution of Foreign Direct Investment to Sustainable Development”, 2021, UNESCAP, [available here](#).

GenderSmart, “Gender & Climate Investment: A strategy for unlocking a sustainable future”, 2021, [available here](#).

OECD, “FDI Qualities Indicators: Measuring the sustainable development impacts of investment”, 2019, [available here](#).

UNCTAD, “Promoting Green FDI: Practices and Lessons from the Field”, 2016, [available here](#).

Bios:

Lamberto Dai Pra'

Lamberto Dai Pra' is Enel Green Power's Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania area. He has been part of the Enel Group since 1991 and has worked in various sectors related to both traditional and renewable electricity generation. He began his career as an engineer in Enel's Construction Division. In 1999, he transferred to the Business Development and M&A areas in the International Division. He then held roles in Business Development for Eastern Europe, New Countries and Solar Photovoltaic, as well as General Manager in France and South Africa. He was born in Goa, India in 1966. He received his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1990.

Karl P. Sauvant

Karl P. Sauvant introduced the idea of an International Support Program for Sustainable Investment Facilitation in the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy in 2015. From there, the proposal was taken forward in the WTO. He has written extensively on this subject (see <https://ssrn.com/author=2461782>), participated in various events relating to it and currently assists the ITC and DIE on a project on Investment Facilitation for Development. He retired in 2005 as Director of UNCTAD's Investment Division and established, in 2006, what is now the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). He stepped down as the Center's Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work, as a CCSI Resident Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.

Laurie J. Spengler

Laurie J. Spengler is CEO of Courageous Capital Advisors, LLC, an impact investment advisory firm dedicated to generating positive impact. She is an impact investment banker and an active contributor to impact investment. She serves in the Council on Foreign Relations and is a non-executive director of the CDC Group (UK DFI), Lendable, the UK Impact Investing Institute and Bridges Insights. As Ambassador to the Global Steering Group on Impact Investing, she speaks at convenings on impact investing, value-based banking, gender-smart investing and more. She is an alumna of Harvard and Stanford Universities.

Matthew Stephenson

Matthew Stephenson is Policy and Community Lead for International Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum, where he manages the Global Investment Policy and Practice initiative. Previously, he worked at the IFC, where he led the workstream on outward FDI. He has also worked at the OECD on Africa and investment and served as a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State, leading the economic team on Afghanistan and managing economic programs in the Middle East. He is a member of the T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment.

He has a PhD from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, a master's from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's from Oxford University.

Sophal Suon

Sophal Suon is currently Director of Public Relations and Promotion of Private Investment at the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), and Lead Negotiator on investment for Cambodia. At the CDC, he has been involved in regional economic cooperation including ASEAN Investment Area, the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program, UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network, ACMECS and the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. Prior to the CDC, he served as a Senior Official in charge of Public Procurement at the Ministry of Economy and Finance. He is a graduate of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.