



## **Webinar invitation: Implementing Investment Facilitation for Development: What are the next steps?**

**17 September 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC), the German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), and the World Economic Forum (WEF), we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

### **Implementing Investment Facilitation for Development: *What are the next steps?***

The webinar will take place on **17 September 2021**, from 15:00 to 16:15 Geneva time (Central European Time), 09:00 to 10:15 Eastern Standard Time, and 21:00 to 22:15 China Standard Time.

The webinar is being held in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development [project](#), jointly implemented by the ITC and DIE.

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> webinar in a series meant to assist investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and policymakers strengthen their capacity to facilitate higher FDI flows, especially investment flows that directly contribute to development; it will also provide an opportunity to exchange experiences regarding investment facilitation, including with investors.

The 7<sup>th</sup> webinar will focus on practical issues regarding **implementing investment facilitation measures for development**. Implementing investment facilitation measures is increasingly important for at least three reasons. First, foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 35% in 2020 according to UNCTAD's latest World Investment Report, motivating increased efforts to reverse this trend. Second, countries are adopting investment facilitation frameworks – both at the national and subnational levels – as well as entering into regional initiatives to facilitate investment. Third, negotiations on a World Trade Organization (WTO) investment facilitation for development (IFD) agreement are advancing rapidly, with more than 100 Members participating. Experience with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) shows that implementation is a key element to achieve benefits from an agreement.

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

**Please feel free to share this invitation with officials dealing with FDI, as well as representatives of the private sector who might be interested in this subject.**

The webinar will be conducted in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants.

The webinar will feature the following speakers:

**Opening: Rajesh Aggarwal**, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

**Moderator: Matthew Stephenson**, Policy and Community Lead, International Trade and Investment, WEF

**Experts and practitioners:**

**João Luis Rossi**, Deputy Special Secretary of Foreign Trade and International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Brazil – *“Creating a National Investment Facilitation Committee: Learnings from the experience of Brazil”*

**Bostjan Skalar**, CEO, WAIPA – *“The importance of stakeholder consultations to facilitate investment?”*

**Lisa Schroeter**, Global Director, Trade and Investment Policy, Dow, USA – *“How can the implementation of investment facilitation measures speed up economic recovery and what are good examples of public-private collaboration?”*

**Philippe Isler**, Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation— *“Operationalizing facilitation through a global alliance and public-private projects: what investment facilitation can learn from trade facilitation”*

**Concluding remarks: Karl P. Sauvant**, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

**Participation in the webinar is free of charge. However, it is necessary to register for the event (please [click here](#)), to receive the meeting link details.**

The webinar will be delivered through Zoom.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the webinar!

Best regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, ITC; Axel Berger, DIE; Karl P. Sauvant, Columbia University/CCSI; Bostjan Skalar, WAIPA; Matthew Stephenson, WEF

## **Background material**

Axel Berger and Karl Sauvant, eds. *Investment Facilitation for Development: A toolkit for policymakers*, 2021, International Trade Centre, [available here](#).

World Economic Forum. *Launching an Alliance to Enable Action on Sustainable Investment (EASI)*, June 2021, [available here](#).

## **Bios:**

### **Rajesh Aggarwal**

Rajesh Aggarwal is Chief of the Trade Facilitation & Policy for Business Section of the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva. He is leading a program of assisting the private sector in developing countries to be the change agent for trade policy reform and engage in business advocacy with their governments in design and implementation of trade policies and negotiating positions that reflect the business interests. Before joining the ITC, he worked for the Indian Government and participated in WTO Doha Round of trade negotiations. He has published papers in the area of trade negotiations, including a paper titled “Dynamics of Agriculture Negotiations in WTO” in the Journal of World Trade.

### **Philippe Isler**

Philippe Isler is Director for the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and is based at the World Economic Forum. The Global Alliance aims at incubating and delivering trade facilitation projects through both donor countries and private sector companies working jointly. He has been leading trade facilitation initiatives for the past 15 years in many parts of the world. He also spent 10 years developing traceability solutions aimed at tracking consignments transiting through countries with harsh environments. He was Vice-President at SGS Group leading government and institutions business development for trade community systems, e-government, telecom monitoring and port/customs operations. He has a BSc in Aerospace Engineering, Bristol University.

### **João Luís Rossi**

João Luís Rossi is Deputy Special Secretary of Foreign Trade and International Affairs, Brazil. He has been a career Foreign Trade Analyst since 2001, having held various positions in international affairs, such as the Head of International Advisory Office of the Minister and General Coordinator of Extra-regional Negotiations of the Secretariat of Foreign Trade. He was also Director of Market Access and Competitiveness at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply between 2015-2017, and Senior Advisor for International Affairs to the Minister of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services between 2017-2018. In 2019, he was Deputy Undersecretary for International Negotiations at the Foreign Trade Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy.

### **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.

### **Lisa Schroeter**

Lisa Schroeter is the Global Director of Trade and Investment Policy for The Dow Chemical Company. She has direct responsibilities for defining and managing the company's global trade agenda as well as developing strategy on the international aspects of key corporate issues, including investment. Before joining Dow, she was the Executive Director of the TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD). She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR); President of Women in International Trade (WIIT) and a Board Member of the Washington International Trade Association, US Council for International Business and the US-ASEAN Business Council.

### **Bostjan Skalar**

Bostjan Skalar is currently serving as Executive Director - CEO of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). WAIPA is the umbrella organization of IPAs worldwide, established in 1995 under auspices of UNCTAD. Previously he served as the Director of the Slovenian Public Agency for Promotion of the Investment, Internationalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism. He also served as a Consul for Economic Affairs of Slovenia in Istanbul, Turkey. He has effectively performed his international business activities and managing roles in different sectors in many countries. He has over 20 years of management experience and is one of the global leaders in the investment promotion area with a private-sector focus.

### **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.