



Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

Invitation: 7th virtual meeting of the Expert Network on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development

4 October 2021, 15:00-16:15 CET

Dear Expert Network members,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 7th meeting of the Expert Network on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development, established in the framework of a project carried out by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

The meeting will take place on 4 October 2021 from 9:00am to 10:15am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:15 Central European Time (CET), 21:00 to 22:15 China Standard Time (CST).

The meeting will focus on approaches to implement an investment facilitation for development (IFD) Agreement to support domestic investment facilitation reforms. An IFD Agreement foresees a number of institutional reforms to be undertaken by signatory countries to promote sustainable development and economic growth. These institutional reforms range, among others, from establishing online platforms to making available investment-related laws and regulations, streamlining of administrative procedures, creating focal points to deal with investor enquiries or ombudsperson-type mechanisms to deal with investor grievances and to better coordinate different ministries and agencies, and establishing supplier development programmes and local supplier databases to promote linkages between domestic suppliers and foreign investors.

Data on the implementation of a broad range of investment facilitation measures shows that developing countries have fewer investment facilitation measures in place. This implementation gap indicates that the necessary reforms to implement an IFD Agreement are demanding in terms of financial costs, technical expertise and political will.

While negotiations on an IFD Agreement are still ongoing and making good progress, this Expert Network meeting will reflect on the challenges signatories will face to implement a future agreement. The meeting will focus on the potential costs of investment facilitation reforms and reflect on a potential sequencing or prioritization of investment facilitation reforms. The meeting will furthermore draw on past experiences of implementing regulatory reforms in other trade agreements.

Moderator: Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University/CCSI.

Opening speakers:

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) — *“What are the costs (financial and otherwise) that occur when implementing an IFD Agreement?”*

Daniel Trnka, Deputy Head, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD— *“Experiences from Regulatory Policy Tools: Lessons to be learned for investment facilitation”*

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

To join the meeting please press the link below.

[Join zoon meeting.](#)

If you would like to request the floor to speak or send written questions or comments during the meeting, please feel free to type your question or request in the chat window by pressing on the chat icon in the middle-bottom pane of the Zoom window.

For your reference, the reports of the last Expert Network meetings can be found [here](#).

Thank you in advance for participating in the Expert Network and sharing your expert insights.

With best regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE

Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

Bios

Axel Berger

Axel Berger is a Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. Other areas of current research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, the impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains and the role of the G20 in global governance. He teaches international political economy at the University of Bonn and regularly advises developing countries, development agencies and international organisations on trade and investment matters.

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>). He currently assists, as Senior International Advisor, 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.

Daniel Trnka

Daniel Trnka works as a Deputy Head of the Regulatory Policy Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), leading the Regulatory Management and Delivery Team. He has been working in the area of public administration reform and regulatory reform for more than 20 years both at the national as well as the international level. Before joining the OECD, he worked as Director of the Department of Regulatory Reform and Public Administration Quality of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic. His main areas of expertise are administrative simplification, regulatory impact assessment, stakeholder engagement and regulatory enforcement and inspections.