Green FDI: How can FDI help achieve climate goals?

Highlights

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) can assist in addressing the climate crisis and promote sustainable development in host and home countries. When foreign investors assess climate FDI projects they examine, *inter alia*, a country's political stability, legal framework, technologies deployed, infrastructure, supply options, services and assistance provided, as well as options for future investments. Accordingly, countries should have in place a regulatory framework and organized processes and measures to facilitate climate FDI.
- There are various concrete measures that can be taken by governments to facilitate climate FDI, including the establishment of a coherent and transparent legal framework for the facilitation of climate FDI; fiscal incentives; insurance and guarantees; the promotion of linkages between local suppliers and climate FDI projects; red carpet services; one-stop-shops for climate investments; and coordination and cooperation mechanisms among all relevant governmental ministries and stakeholders.
- The future Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement being negotiated at the World Trade Organization (WTO) should include provisions to facilitate green FDI, as well as its subset, climate FDI. Including the facilitating of climate FDI under the IFD agreement will not only reinforce the purpose of the Agreement to facilitate sustainable FDI, but also ensure that capacity building and technical assistance is provided to developing and least development country members (LDCs) for the implementation of measures that facilitate climate FDI under the Agreement.

Overview

This report on *"Green FDI: How can FDI help achieve climate goals?"* summarizes the main issues discussed during the 12th meeting of the Commentary Group (which took place virtually on 12 April 2022, from 15:00 to 16:15 Geneva time) and a webinar on the same topic with government officials and investment promotion agency (IPA) representatives (which took place on 27 April 2022, from 15:00 to 16:00 Geneva time). The events were held in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development project, jointly implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). The Commentary Group meeting was co-organised by ITC, DIE and the World Economic Forum (Forum). The webinar was co-organised by ITC, DIE, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), and the Forum.

The events included the following speakers: Jennifer Blanke, Member of the Board, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland and former Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank Group; Kimberley Botwright, Head, Sustainable Trade, Forum; Lamberto Dai Pra', Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Enel Green Power; Andrea Gattini, Head of Business Development Africa and Middle East in Enel green Power; Robert Hermann, CEO, Germany Trade and Invest; Kemvichet Long, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the WTO and Other International Organisations; Abhishek Saurav, Senior Economist, Investment Policy and Promotion, World Bank Group; Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI); and Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment Policy and Practice, Forum.

A list of the participating members in the Commentary Group meeting and the programmes for both events are attached to this report. The views summarized in this report are those of the individual speakers and do not necessarily reflect those of ITC, DIE and the institutions with which the speakers are affiliated.

Summary of the main issues

I. Establishing legal frameworks for facilitating climate FDI

FDI can assist in addressing the climate crisis. That assistance ranges from voluntary actions by multinational enterprises (MNEs) to mandatory actions by national governments, to appropriate clauses in international investment agreements. There is a strong desire by both the public and private sectors to grow climate FDI; however, a better understanding is needed regarding the right enablers, namely specific, targeted measures that can be taken by governments to facilitate climate FDI.

Companies are increasingly interested in engaging in climate FDI as they are facing mounting pressure from all quarters towards more sustainable investment and sustainable business practices. However, it is important to keep in mind that companies primarily engage in FDI activities for business reasons. Renewable energy projects require massive investments and many times the establishment of new infrastructure. Power generation projects are capital intensive, with investments that are recovered over around 15-20 years. When foreign investors assess climate FDI projects in host countries, they examine, *inter alia*, a country's political stability, legal framework, technologies deployed, infrastructure, supply options, services and assistance provided, and options for future investments.

Accordingly, countries should have in place a robust and transparent regulatory framework and organized processes and measures to facilitate climate FDI. Establishing legal frameworks for the facilitation of climate FDI can be complex, primarily because of definition questions. However, a legal framework for the facilitation of climate FDI could focus on three main areas: decarbonisation by greening existing economic activities and industries; facilitating new activities that have low carbon footprints (which include investments in renewable power); and divestment from those types of economic activities that involve high levels of carbon emissions, such as fossil fuel-based power generation.

One challenge regarding the establishment of a legal framework to facilitate climate FDI is the alignment of climate concerns with other dimensions of responsible business conduct. A second challenge is to leverage the legal framework to promote monitoring of targeted measures and of incentives, to verify that such measures indeed facilitate climate FDI. The first challenge could be addressed by laws such as the Corporate Duty of Vigilance Law (2017) enacted by France, which establishes that French MNEs (and their affiliates) must establish reasonable corporate social responsibility vigilance plans (including related to environmental impacts resulting from their operations). Monitoring issues can be partly addressed by climate risk disclosure policies and due diligence requirements.

II. Concrete measures for facilitating climate FDI

The webinar focused on identifying important measures that policymakers can adopt to facilitate FDI that contributes to achieving climate goals, which is a subset of green FDI. The following concrete measures were proposed for the facilitation of climate FDI. It was noted that facilitation measures should be taken at the multilateral, regional, national, and sub-national levels, and they can be complementary.

Policy coherence and transparency: The policy around the facilitation of climate FDI should be coherent, transparent and easily accessible. For example, in Kenya a national green investment guide was developed. The guide clarifies national policies and legal requirements related to green investments.

Stakeholder involvement: When establishing regulatory frameworks to facilitate climate FDI, it is important to involve a variety of stakeholders, such as central governments, local authorities, enterprises, labour unions, and civil society.

Fiscal incentives: In order to facilitate climate FDI, a variety of incentives can be provided, including tax benefits and grants. Incentives should be targeted and based on key performance indicators. They should be informed by environmental impact assessments, and they should include reporting obligations focused on climate goals as well as quality standards and certifications. Measurement and evaluation mechanisms should be in place, to quantify the positive impact of climate FDI and the effectiveness of the incentives provided. These mechanisms are also important for quantifying financial returns for companies that engage in climate FDI which can then create positive feedback.

Insurance and guarantees: Foreign investors seek investment guarantees and insurance schemes to de-risk climate investment especially in emerging markets. Guarantees tend to be provided by development banks or specific guarantee mechanisms such as power purchase agreements for renewable energy. Guarantees and political risk insurance could be conditioned to ensure that FDI projects have a positive climate impact or do not have a negative impact, such as through *ex ante* environmental impact assessments. For example, under the German investment guarantee scheme, an investment needs to fulfil certain conditions to be eligible, such as positive effects on host countries.

Projects and linkages: Government should ensure the availability of green FDI project opportunities. IPAs could also map local suppliers and target foreign investors that have renewable technologies in order to promote green FDI and facilitate linkages with the local economy. Governments should align local skills with climate technologies and activities through supporting education and setting up appropriate programmes for scaling up local suppliers and the local work force in relevant fields. Supplier development programmes should assist local suppliers to integrate climate friendly criteria within their operations.

Red carpet services: Governments could provide red carpet services to types of FDI that have a meaningful positive impact on the host economy related to climate FDI, such as FDI led by investors that have a proven record in climate-related FDI or who invest in specific initiatives with a strong climate benefit. For example, Invest South Africa fast-tracked FDI related to recycling projects. Fast-tracking can be offered to climate-related projects that have specific technical barriers or licensing requirements that might otherwise hinder a project.

One-stop shop for climate investments: One-stop shops for climate FDI or climate desks in existing IPAs can assist in streamlining climate FDI. For example, India has established a renewable energy investment facilitation portal that assists investors in renewable energy projects. The online portal includes streamlining all the communications across government departments.

Whole-of-government approach: To streamline and facilitate climate FDI, it is important to ensure that coordination and cooperation mechanisms among all relevant governmental ministries are in place. Climate FDI involves cross-cutting and sectoral regulatory aspects that, if not coordinated properly, could create barriers to FDI.

III. Including the facilitation of Climate FDI in the IFD Agreement

The future WTO IFD Agreement should include provisions to facilitate green and climate FDI, such as the provisions mentioned above. Including provisions regarding climate FDI under the IFD Agreement will not only reinforce the purpose of the Agreement to facilitate sustainable FDI but also ensure that capacity building and technical assistance is provided to developing countries (and especially LDCs) for the implementation of measures that facilitate climate FDI. For renewable projects, investors need to have confidence in the capability of officials in local government institutions to understand and lead the process from their side. Capabilities of the staff in these institutions can be reinforced by technical assistance and capacity building.

It was also mentioned that international investment agreements could require that only climate FDI could receive the protections or benefits under such agreements.

Annex I: Participating members in the 11th Commentary Group meeting

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Mohammed	Baba	Deputy Director, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Nigeria
Alvaro	Cuervo Cazurra	Professor, Northeastern University
Lamberto	Dai Pra'	Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Enel Green Power
Tommy	Fanning	Head of Strategic Policy, IDA Ireland
Khalil	Hamdani	Visiting Professor, Lahore School of Economics
Robert	Hermann	CEO, Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI)
Martin	Kaspar	Head of Corporate Development, FRAENKISCHE
Iain	Lindsay	Advisor to the Board, Chief Executive Office, EDB Bahrain
Frederico	Marchiori	Global Head of Institutional Relations, Oxiteno
Anuj	Mathew	Senior Economic Adviser and Head of Investment Promotion and Policy Analysis, Department for International Trade of the United Kingdom
Esaie	Ntidendereza	Head of Division, Investment Promotion, Burundi Investment Promotion Authority
Karl P.	Sauvant	Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI
Lisa	Schroeter	Global Director, Trade and Investment Policy, Dow
Bostjan	Skalar	Former Executive Director and CEO, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)
Matthew	Stephenson	Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum
Shiro	Takegami	Director General, JETRO, Geneva
Hanna	Tatarchenko Welgacz	Manager, Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (APEXBrazil), Brazil

Brooke	Tenison	Acting Director of Investment Research, SelectUSA
Dushyant	Thakor	Senior Vice President, Invest India
Jan	von Herff	Senior Manager, Trade, Industry Policy & International Networks, BASF SE
Ghislaine	Weder	Head, Economics and International Relations, Nestle
Speakers		
Jennifer	Blanke	Member of the Board, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland and former Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank Group
Kimberley	Botwright	Head, Sustainable Trade, World Economic Forum
Lamberto	Dai Pra’	Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Enel Green Power
Abhishek	Saurav	Senior Economist, Investment Policy and Promotion, World Bank Group
Karl P.	Sauvant	Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)
Matthew	Stephenson	Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum
Additional participants		
Yardenne	Kagan	Project Officer, ITC/DIE Project on Investment Facilitation for Development, ITC
Quan	Zhao	Project Manager, ITC/DIE Project on Investment Facilitation for Development, ITC
Jean-Sébastien	Roure	Senior Officer, Business and Trade Policy, ITC
Khalid	Alaamer	World Economic Forum
Edgard	Carneiro Vieira	Policy Analyst and Engagement Specialist, World Economic Forum

Annex II: Commentary Group invitation and agenda

Invitation: 12th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

12 April 2022

Dear Madam/Sir,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 12th meeting of the Commentary Group on "***Green FDI: How can FDI help achieve climate goals?***", that will take place virtually on 12 April 2022 from 9:00am to 10:30am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:30 Central European Time (CET).

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, as well as helping inform national, bilateral and regional investment facilitation efforts.

Against the background of the challenges of the climate crisis and the opportunities offered by new technology, the 12th meeting of the Investment Facilitation Commentary Group will focus on identifying the most important measures that policymakers can adopt to facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) that contributes to achieving climate goals: 'climate FDI'. Examples of such measures could include incentives, standards and reporting, guarantees, financial instruments, targeted investment promotion, etc.

The time is ripe for scaled up public-private collaboration to facilitate climate FDI for at least two reasons.

On the one hand, there is new evidence that green FDI can lead to a shift in environmentally friendly behaviour across the parent firm, in subsidiaries and by other domestic businesses through spillovers. This motivates the increase of green FDI – especially that targeted for climate goals – given its broad benefits beyond the specific investment.

On the one hand, there is new political commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) through investment: in the Glasgow Climate Pact, Parties agreed "to further scale up investments in climate action", and leading business have shown commitment to these goals, for instance by launching the First Movers Coalition to grow zero-emission goods and services and build clean supply chains.

This meeting will therefore seek to ask investors and officials what measures are most important and effective when it comes to promoting and facilitating climate FDI.

The discussion will be informed by a draft mapping of climate FDI measures that will be shared with participants in advance of the meeting, with the suggestion that part of the meeting be structured as a review and reaction by participants of the potential measures.

The findings will then be shared through a summary report, which can inform the adoption of policies and measures by governments, as well as consideration by delegates currently negotiating an Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO. Importantly, it will also inform a scoping effort around public-private projects that can facilitate climate FDI in specific countries.

Moderator: Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

Introduction: Kimberley Botwright, Head, Sustainable Trade, World Economic Forum – ***"Introduction to new collaboration"***

Panellists:

Jennifer Blanke, Member of the Board, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland and former Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank Group – "***Governments and firms want to grow climate FDI"***

Lamberto Dai Pra', Head of Africa, Asia and Oceania, Enel Green Power – "***What firms need to carry out more climate FDI"***

Abhishek Saurav, Senior Economist, Investment Policy and Promotion, World Bank Group – "***Working with developing countries to grow climate FDI"***

Concluding remarks: Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00 am CET on 12 April 2022 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. Sauvant	Matthew Stephenson
Columbia University/CCSI	World Economic Forum
1 212 593-4294	41 79 265 8986
karlsauvant@gmail.com	Matthew.Stephenson@weforum.org

Background information:

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

UNCTAD-WEF, *Mapping of climate FDI measures*, March 2021, forthcoming.

WEF, *Delivering a Climate Trade Agenda: Industry Insights*, September 2021, available here.

Bios:

Jennifer Blanke

Jennifer Blanke is Member of the Board, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture. Previously she was Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development of the African Development Bank Group, based in Cote d'Ivoire. Earlier she was Chief Economist at the World Economic Forum, in Geneva, overseeing economic research activities. She has also worked as a management consultant in the banking and financial sector for Eurogroup Consulting (Mazars Group) in Paris. She holds a BA in International Relations from Hamilton

College, a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, and a PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute, Geneva.

Kimberley Botwright

Kimberley Botwright is the Head of Sustainable Trade at the World Economic Forum where she overseas programmes related to circular trade, trade and climate change and sustainable supply chains. Previously, she has worked at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD,) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Kimberley holds an M.A. in European Economics and Policy from l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and a B.A. from the University of Oxford. She is fluent in English and French, and is a citizen of the UK and Switzerland.

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.

Abhishek Saurav

Abhishek Saurav is a Senior Economist with the Global Investment Climate Unit of the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation Global Practice. He leads policy research on FDI and initiatives to shape the investment climate and competitiveness agenda in developing countries. This includes the pathways to increase investment for environmentally sustainable private sector growth. He holds a doctorate in Public Policy and Public Administration from the George Washington University, master's degree in public policy from the George Mason University, and bachelor's degree in information technology from the University of Delhi, India.

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.

Matthew Stephenson

Matthew Stephenson is Head of Investment Policy and Practice 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.

Annex II: Webinar invitation and agenda

Webinar invitation: Green FDI – How can FDI help achieve climate goals?

27 April 2022

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:

Green FDI – How can FDI help achieve climate goals?

The webinar will take place on 27 April 2022, from 15:00 to 16:00 Geneva time (Central European Time), 09:00 to 10:00 Eastern Standard Time.

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

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.

This is the 12th 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.

Against the background of the challenges of the climate crisis and the opportunities offered by new technology, the 12th investment facilitation webinar will focus on identifying the most important measures that policymakers can adopt to facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) that contributes to achieving climate goals: 'climate FDI'. Examples of such measures could include incentives, standards and reporting, guarantees, financial instruments, targeted investment promotion, etc.

The time is ripe for scaled up public-private collaboration to facilitate climate FDI for at least two reasons.

On the one hand, there is new evidence that green FDI can lead to a shift in environmentally friendly behaviour across the parent firm, in subsidiaries and by other domestic businesses through spillovers. This motivates the increase of green FDI – especially that targeted for climate goals – given its broad benefits beyond the specific investment.

On the other hand, there is new political commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) through investment: in the Glasgow Climate Pact, Parties agreed "to further scale up investments in climate action", and leading business have shown commitment to these goals, for instance by launching the First Movers Coalition to grow zero-emission goods and services and build clean supply chains.

This webinar therefore seeks to ask investors and government officials what measures are most important and effective when it comes to promoting and facilitating climate FDI.

The findings will then be shared through a summary report, which can inform the adoption of policies and measures by governments, as well as consideration by delegates currently negotiating an Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO.

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 remarks: **Rajesh Aggarwal**, Director (oic), Division for Market Development, ITC

Moderator: **Matthew Stephenson**, Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

Experts and practitioners:

Kimberley Botwright, Head, Sustainable Trade, World Economic Forum – "***What are measures to grow climate FDI?***"

Robert Hermann, CEO, Germany Trade and Invest – "***Governments want to attract more climate FDI***"

Andrea Gattini, Head of Business Development Africa and Middle East in Enel green Power – "***What firms need to carry out more climate FDI***"

Kemvichet Long, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the WTO and Other International Organisations – ***"A developing country and WTO IFD perspective"***

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

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; Ismail Ersahin, WAIPA; Karl P. Sauvant, Columbia University/CCSI; Matthew Stephenson, WEF

Background material

ITC-DIE project on Investment Facilitation for Development

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

Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, "What can governments to do facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys", WAIPA and WEF, December 2019, available here.

Karl P. Sauvant, "How would a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development encourage sustainable FDI flows, and how could it be further strengthened?", available here.

Karl P. Sauvant, Matthew Stephenson and Yardenne Kagan, 'Green FDI: Encouraging carbon-neutral investment,' Columbia FDI Perspectives No. 316, October 18, 2021, available here.

World Economic Forum Global Investment Policy and Practice initiative.

Bios:

Rajesh Aggarwal

Rajesh Aggarwal is Officer in Charge, Director, Division for Market Development, ITC, Geneva. He is leading a programme of assisting the private sector in developing countries to be the change agent for trade policy reforms and engage in business advocacy with their governments in the design and implementation of trade policies and negotiating positions that reflect business interests. Before joining the ITC, he worked for the Indian Government and participated in the 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.

Kimberley Botwright

Kimberley Botwright is the Head of Sustainable Trade at the World Economic Forum where she overseas programmes related to circular trade, trade and climate change and sustainable supply chains. Previously, she has worked at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She holds an M.A. in European Economics and Policy from l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and a B.A. from the University of Oxford. She is fluent in English and French, and is a citizen of the UK and Switzerland.

Andrea Gattini

Andrea Gattini is the Enel Green Power's Head of Business Development Africa and Middle East. He has been part of the Enel Group since 2003, he always worked in the renewable sector covering different roles in Engineering and Construction and Business Development as well as Head of Tender Management and Development Support for the Africa and M.E. and Head of BD Southern Africa. He has more than 18 years of experience in different renewable technologies and geographies, especially in African renewable market, and competitive process like REIPPPP in South Africa, Scaling Solar as well as other markets and tenders in the continent. He was born in Italy in the 1976 and he holds a MSc in Mechanical Engineering.

Robert Hermann

Robert Hermann has been the CEO of Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI) since February 2018. From November 2014 to January 2018, he directed the Marketing and Communication department of GTAI, having previously overseen the Investor Consulting department since GTAI's founding in 2009. Between 2004 and 2008 he was an investment consultant at Invest in Germany, GTAI's previous incarnation. Prior to that, he was a corporate consultant at JSW Management Consulting. He holds the academic distinction of Doctor of Engineering from the Rhineland-Westfalen Technical University of Aachen.

Kemvichet Long

Kemvichet Long has been Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the WTO and Other International Organisation since June 2021. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Deputy Director General for International Trade, a post where he was appointed in January 2019 after rising through every rank in the Ministry starting in 2008. During this time, he helped negotiate the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement and the Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement, among other. He also has experience in E-Commerce JSI negotiation in the WTO and is the current Chairman of the Council for Trade in Services for 2022. He holds a Master of Laws Degree from Kyushu University, Japan.

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.

Matthew Stephenson

Matthew Stephenson is Head of Investment Policy and Practice 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.