



## **High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How African Economies Will Benefit**

**31 May 2022, 13:00-15:30 CET, 15:00- 17:30 Addis Ababa time**

This ‘**High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How African Economies Will Benefit**’ is co-organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), and the World Economic Forum (Forum). The Roundtable is convened in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development [project](#), jointly implemented by ITC and DIE. It will take place on 31 May 2022, from 13:00-15:30 CET, 15:00- 17:30 Addis Ababa time.

The event will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation available in both languages.

To register for the event and receive the meeting-link details, please [register here](#). Please note that, to avoid any difficulties, only participants who register will receive the password to join the on-line roundtable.

This high-level event is meant to offer a platform for a strategic exchange on the negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), launched in September 2020 after over two years of preparatory discussions. The negotiations bring together over 110 WTO Members at all levels of development, aiming to conclude the text negotiations by the end of 2022.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the following members of the African Union are participating: Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

High-level policy makers, government officials, private sector representatives, and eminent academic scholars will participate in the Roundtable, to be updated on the negotiations and to raise awareness on their progress and reflect on how countries may best make use of the IFD Agreement to enhance their business climate, attract higher value-added investment and boost economic growth, digital economy innovations and development. This reflection process also seeks to help participants to ensure that their countries’ international engagement is in line with their sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> Participating Members reflect a wide geographic representation – the majority being developing countries (77) including 20 least-developed country (LDC) Members. The current list of participating Members is available [here](#).

development goals (SDGs) and their national and regional reform agendas, including the investment facilitation aspects of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol negotiations.

This process is particularly important and timely as a working group led by the WTO secretariat and comprised of leading international organisations active in the field is preparing an 'Investment Facilitation Self-Assessment Guide' to help WTO Members self-assess their needs and priorities for the effective implementation of the future IFD Agreement and the technical assistance and capacity building needs associated with implementation. Need assessments are expected to begin in the second half of this year.

The Roundtable will provide a brief background on the focus and progress of the IFD Agreement negotiations and explore the benefits and possible challenges of an IFD Agreement for African economies.

The objective of this Roundtable is to facilitate awareness raising, joint learning and capacity building among participants. The roundtable will also acknowledge existing investment facilitation efforts and progress in Africa, both from national, regional and continental perspectives, in particular in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations of an Investment Protocol. The aim here would be to explore possibilities to work towards coherence and possible points of entry between the multilateral and continental levels of the IF agenda.

The Roundtable will be held under the Chatham House Rule to facilitate open and results-oriented discussions.

## **PROGRAMME**

**13:00**                      **First session: opening**

*Chair*                              **Stephen Karingi**, Director, UNECA

*Speakers*                      **Pamela Coke-Hamilton**, Executive Director, ITC  
**Vera Songwe**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA  
**Emily Mburu-Ndoria Wamkele Mene**, Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat (AfCFTA)  
**Anna-Katharina Hornidge**, Director, DIE  
**Sean Doherty**, Head, International Trade and Investment, Forum  
**Guest address: Anabel González**, Deputy Director-General, WTO, on behalf of WTO Director-General **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

**13:25**                    **2<sup>nd</sup> Session: High-level segment: The importance of investment facilitation from national and regional perspectives**

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

**Speakers**              **Makane Moïse Mbengue**, Professor and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva – *“The state of play of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol negotiations with respect to investment facilitation”*  
**Vuyo Mjekula**, Director, External Affairs, sub-Saharan Africa, MSD (Merck & Co) – *“An investor’s perspective on the importance of investment facilitation”*

**14:25**                    **Coffee break**

**14:30**                    **3<sup>rd</sup> Session: How an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement can contribute to sustainable development**

**Chair**                    **Matthew Stephenson**, Head of Investment Policy and Practice, Forum

**Speakers**              **Mathias Francke**, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development – *“The state of play of the WTO negotiations on an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development”*

**Sunday Ogwuche**, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nigeria in Geneva – *“Key areas of action to facilitate sustainable FDI”*

**Yofi Grant**, Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre – *“Which investment facilitation measures are most important”*

**Margareth Gustavo**, Executive Director, Strategy and Branding, Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) – *“An IPA’s perspective on the importance of investment facilitation”*

**15:25**                    **Concluding remarks**

**Laura Páez**, Chief Market Institutions Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, UNECA

## **Background materials**

[Fact sheet on the Joint Initiative on IFD \(WTO, November 2021\).](#)

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

[Axel Berger, Yardenne Kagan and Karl P. Sauvart, eds., \*Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers\*. Second edition \(Geneva: ITC, 2022\)](#)

[Axel Berger, Ali Dadkhah and Zoryana Olekseyuk, “Quantifying investment facilitation at country level: Introducing a new index” \(Bonn: DIE, 2021\).](#)

[Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, “What can governments do to facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys”, WAIPA and World Economic Forum.](#)

[Karl P. Sauvart, “How would a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development encourage sustainable FDI flows, and how could it be further strengthened?”.](#)

[Karl P. Sauvart, “The potential value-added of a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development”, \*Transnational Dispute Management\*, vol. 2 \(2020\).](#)

[World Economic Forum, \*Global Investment Policy and Practice, including workstream on Investment Facilitation\*.](#)

## **Bios**

### **Pamela Coke-Hamilton**

Pamela Coke-Hamilton has served as Executive Director of the ITC since 1 October 2020. She joined ITC from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, where she was Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities. She served with the Jamaican Government, the Caribbean Forum in trade negotiations, and multilateral institutions, including the Organization of American States and InterAmerican Development Bank. She previously served as Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency, strengthening the private sector and MSMEs through investment promotion. She holds a Juris Doctor in Law from the Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, DC.

### **Sean Doherty**

Sean Doherty is Head of [International Trade & Investment](#) and a member of the Executive Committee at the World Economic Forum. He leads the Forum’s work on trade and investment facilitation, sustainability and digitalization as well as related policy topics such as international tax and competition. He earlier headed the World Economic Forum’s Supply Chain & Transport, Chemicals and Mining and Metals industry communities. He worked previously in the trading and logistics sector and as a management consultant. He holds degrees in aeronautical engineering, molecular biology, business administration and international economic law.

### **Mathias Francke**

Mathias Francke is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO and Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development. Previously, he was APEC SOM Chair (2019), and Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Director for Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chief of Cabinet, and senior advisor at the Chilean Vice Minister of Trade. As a Foreign Service officer since 1989, he was posted at the Embassy of Chile in the UK (2014 to 2018), Chile’s Permanent Mission to the WTO (2000 to

2005, and as Deputy Head of Mission from 2006 to 2010) and the Trade Office of the Embassy of Chile in the USA (1992 to 1996). He is a lawyer from the Catholic University of Chile.

### **Anabel González**

Anabel González is Deputy Director-General to the World Trade Organization. She is a renowned global expert on trade, investment and economic development with a proven managerial track record in international organisations and the public sector. In government, she served as Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; as Director General for International Trade Negotiations; as Director-General of the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE); and as Special Ambassador and Chief negotiator of the US-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. She also served at the World Bank as a Senior Director, at the WTO as Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division and as Senior Consultant with the IDB.

### **Yofi Grant**

Yofi Grant is a renowned Ghanaian investment banker with over 30 years of extensive work experience in banking and finance. He currently serves on the advisory boards of the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and also a member of the board of trustees of the ACP Endowment and Trust Fund. Having served in various capacities in corporate finance, credits, marketing, and investment banking, he has broad knowledge and exposure in the African financial markets and has cultivated strong relationships with international private equity funds, portfolio investment managers and brokerage funds. He was also Special Advisor to the Minister for Private Sector Development from 2002-2006.

### **Margareth Gustavo**

Margareth Gustavo has since 2021 been Executive Director for Strategy and Branding of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB). In this role she is responsible for crafting strategies to improve Namibia's competitiveness, including policy reform and promoting Namibia as a place to live, invest, develop and visit. In 2013 she founded Cornerstone, a brand strategy firm to work with Namibian companies invested in growing sustainable brands, following a career in brand and marketing leadership at several local companies. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce and a Master's in Business Leadership.

### **Anna-Katharina Hornidge**

Anna-Katharina Hornidge is Director of the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn. Before joining DIE in March 2020, she was Professor of Social Sciences in the Marine Tropics at the University of Bremen and Head of Department "Social Sciences" and the research group "Development and Knowledge Sociology" at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen. From 2006 to 2015, she worked as Senior Researcher for the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, where she held the position of Professor and Director in the Department of Social and Cultural Change from 2014 to 2015.

### **Stephen Karingi**

Stephen Karingi is currently the Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Prior joining the United Nations in April 2004, he was Senior Analyst and the Head of Macroeconomics Division in the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), a Public Policy Think-Tank. Before KIPPRA he served as a

Lecturer of Economics at Egerton University. He has published extensively in major academic peer-reviewed journals and contributed chapters in edited books with renowned publishers. He has contributed to global and regional policy dialogues through prominent Think-Tanks. Today he spearheads policy research in various areas within the ECA.

### **Makane Moïse Mbengue**

Makane Moïse Mbengue is Professor and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. He is also an Affiliated Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law). He is the President of the African Society of International Law. He was the Lead Expert for the negotiations and drafting of the Pan-African Investment Code (PAIC) in the context of the African Union. He is involved in several investment negotiations across Africa. He acts as counsel in disputes before international courts and tribunals (in particular the International Court of Justice) and as arbitrator and expert in investment arbitration proceedings.

### **H.E. Jean Lucien Mbusa**

H.E. Jean Lucien Mbusa is Minister of Commerce for the Democratic Republic of the Congo since August 2019. Previously he held the positions of Minister of Foreign Trade (May 2017 to February 2019) and Minister of Planning (December 2016 to May 2017). He holds a Master's degree in Financial and Monetary Science and a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Economics.

### **Wamkele Mene**

Wamkele Mene is the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat. He was elected in February 2020 as the first Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat. He holds a B.A Law degree from Rhodes University and an M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies, as well as an LL.M in Banking Law and Financial Regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Prior to his appointment as the Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat he was the Head of Mission to the WTO for South Africa and the Chief Director for Africa Economic Relations in South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry and South Africa's lead negotiator in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

### **Vuyo Mjekula**

Vuyo Mjekula is Director for External Affairs, sub-Saharan Africa, at MSD since June 2021. She leads on areas related to policy and market access and is responsible for expanding and deepening patient access to MSD's innovative portfolio of medicines and vaccines. Prior to joining the pharmaceutical industry in 2019, she spent three years at Sasol as Head of Stakeholder Relations, where she was responsible for government affairs and reputation issues. She started her career in the Foreign Service in 2006 which led to her deployment to represent South Africa as a diplomat in Washington, D.C. in 2011.

### **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is the Director-General of the WTO. She is an economist and international development expert with over 30 years of experience. She was Chair of the Board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (2016 – 2020), the African Risk Capacity (2014 – 2020) and Co-Chair of The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate. Previously, she served as Senior Advisor at

Lazard and sat on the Boards of Standard Chartered PLC and Twitter Inc. She was an AU COVID-19 Special Envoy and a WHO COVID-19 Special Envoy. She served twice as Nigeria's Finance Minister (2003-2006, 2011-2015), the first woman to hold the position, and spent 25 years at the World Bank, rising to the No.2 position of Managing Director.

### **Laura Páez**

Laura Páez is Chief of the Market Institutions Section at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Her work focuses on the regulatory and policy dimensions of investment, competition, intellectual property, services and digitalisation in Africa, in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Prior to ECA, she worked at the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development in Geneva on African development issues. She has extensive policy and academic experience on financial services, regionalism, FDI, trade liberalisation and negotiations. She is author of several peer reviewed papers and regularly participates in conferences, lectures and seminars around the world.

### **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.

### **Vera Songwe**

Vera Songwe is the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA. Upon her appointment, she became the first woman to lead the institution in its 60-year history. As Executive Secretary, her reforms have focused on developing and implementing "ideas for a prosperous Africa". They have emphasised the critical importance of macroeconomic stability, innovative finance, private sector participation, the digital transformation, trade, and competitiveness in fostering growth and improving livelihoods. Prior to ECA, she held a number of senior leadership roles with the International Finance Corporation and World Bank. She has written extensively on development and economic issues.

### **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.