

Dear Expert Network Members,

Thank you very much for your willingness to participate in the expert group 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 first virtual meeting of the expert group will take place on **Friday, 20 March 2020 at 15:00pm to 17:00pm CET**. We would appreciate if you are able to participate. **Please register here.**

The first meeting will discuss the lessons learnt from investment facilitation provisions in bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and preferential trade agreements (PTAs). The following questions should guide our discussion:

- Which dedicated investment facilitation provisions are included in BITs and PTAs?
- Which countries are the main drivers of these trends?
- What can be learnt from the negotiation and implementation of investment facilitation provisions in BITs and PTAs? What has worked, what not?

After an introduction to the project and the expert group, we will have two inputs by Rodrigo Polanco (Senior Researcher at the World Trade Institute, WTI) and Michelle Ratton Sanchez Badin (Professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation) to kick-off the discussion among all experts. The discussion will be held under Chatham House Rule to enable frank and open exchange. The main results of the discussion will be summarised in a short report which will be fed into the WTO process on investment facilitation.

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00pm on 20 March 2020 and follow the instructions. If you are not automatically joined in the meeting after clicking the link, click on "[Join the Meeting](#)".

Join Skype Meeting

After that, download and install the Skype Meetings App plug-in and click on "[Join Using Skype for Business Web App instead](#)". To join through the phone you can dial [+41 22 730 0999](#).

If you would like to also send written questions or comments during the meeting, please feel free to type them in the chat window in the bottom-left corner of the Skype window.

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

With best regards,

Axel

Background literature

[Facilitation 2.0: Investment and Trade in the Digital Age](#)

[Strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation in the international investment regime: The Brazilian model](#)

[The useful institution of an investment ombudsperson](#)

[The New Brazilian Agreements on Cooperation and Facilitation of Investments \(ACFIs\):](#)

[Navigating between resistance and conformity with the global investment regime](#)