

Webinar invitation:

DOES INVESTMENT FACILITATION MATTER?

Increasing FDI Flows, Development and Quality Jobs

22 November 2022, 15:00 to 16:00 Geneva time (CET)

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC), the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), and the World Economic Forum, we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

Does Investment Facilitation Matter? Increasing FDI Flows, Development and Quality Jobs

The webinar will take place on 22 November 2022 from 15:00 to 16:00 Geneva time (CET).

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

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 13th webinar in a series meant to assist investment promotion agencies 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 context is that negotiations on a WTO Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement are scheduled to conclude at the end of this year. The main goal of facilitating foreign direct investment (FDI) is to promote sustainable development. In light of this, the webinar will consider investment facilitation's potential effect on the quantity and quality of FDI, and in particular on the creation of quality jobs – given the priority placed on jobs by policymakers and the importance of jobs for social welfare and stability.

The discussion will begin with the latest findings on FDI's impact on quality job creation. The discussion will then turn to the experience of investment officials facilitating investment in practice and firms investing across multiple markets. The purpose is to suggest concrete measures that can be adopted as a consequence of the IFD Agreement with direct impact on quality job creation.

The webinar takes place in a challenging FDI context: in 2021, FDI rebounded to above pre-pandemic levels. However, according to UNCTAD's *World Investment Report 2022*, almost three quarters of the global increase of FDI flows went to developed economies, risking a two-speed recovery. Understanding how developing economies can implement investment facilitation measures in a way to increase not only FDI flows but also the quality and development benefits of these flows is therefore of particular importance.

Highlights of the discussion will be captured in a summary report, which can inform the adoption of policies and measures by governments, as well as consideration of important measures and their implementation by delegates currently negotiating the IFD Agreement.

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:

Ana Novik, Head, Investment Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – *How can FDI increase the quantity and quality of jobs in an economy?*

Markus Thill, President, Africa, Robert Bosch – *Firms want to invest where investment facilitation is done well.*

Xavier Vanrolleghem, Head of Department Invest at Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) – *How can investment authorities facilitate FDI to increase flows, sustainable development and jobs?*

Rami Rafih, Managing Director and Partner, Dubai, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) – *What have we learned advising governments and firms on investment facilitation and jobs?*

Karl Sauvart, Senior Fellow, Columbia University, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). *Concluding remarks*

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the webinar!

Best regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, ITC; Axel Berger, IDOS; Karl P. Sauvart, Columbia University/CCSI; Ismail Ersahin, WAIPA; Matthew Stephenson, World Economic Forum

Background information:

Edward J. Balistreri and Zoryana Olekseyuk, “Economic impacts of investment facilitation”, Working Paper, Iowa State University, 2021, [available here](#).

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

OECD, “Policies for improving FDI impacts on job quality and skills”, in *FDI Qualities Policy Toolkit*, OECD, 2022, [available here](#).

Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, “What can governments do to facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys”, December 2019, [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.

Ana Novik

Ana Novik is Head of the Investment Division of the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs. She focusses on improving the international investment climate, promoting good domestic policies to support sustainable and inclusive investment and responsible business conduct. She establishes strategies for the OECD to secure a leadership role in the international investment debate and to advance a more structured economic analysis of investment flows and impact. Prior to joining the OECD, she was the Chilean Ambassador Director of Multilateral Economic Affairs in the Economics Directorate of Chile’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, representing Chile in such international organisations as WTO, OECD and APEC.

Rami Rafih

Rami Rafih leads Boston Consulting Group’s economic advantage of nations work globally, and leads the Global Advantage practice in the Middle East. He is a core member of BCG’s Public Sector and Principal Investors & Private Equity (PIPE) practices. Rami has worked with sovereign wealth funds (SWFs), and government ministries and authorities in Europe, GCC countries, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, covering several economic sectors as well as topics such as foreign direct investment attraction, innovation hubs and clusters, special economic zones (SEZs), export promotion, and talent attraction. He has a Masters from HEC Paris and a Bachelors in Engineers from the American University of Beirut (AUB)

Karl P. Sauvart

Karl P. Sauvart 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 IDOS 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 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.

Markus Thill

Markus Thill is President of Africa for Robert Bosch since 2014, reporting directly to Bosch Group management. Prior to co-founding Bosch's global venture arm as managing director in 2007, he worked as Vice President of Bosch's global corporate strategy department. Before joining Bosch, he was a senior manager in leading strategy consulting firms, heading and implementing projects on strategic and operational issues as well as M&As around the globe. He holds university degrees in mathematics and physics, including a doctorate ("summa cum laude") from Université de Paris (France). He is fluent in English, German and French, and has a good working knowledge of several other languages.

Xavier Vanrolleghem

Xavier Vanrolleghem is heading the Inward Investment department at Flanders Investment & Trade. Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) is the government agency supporting Flemish companies in their effort to deploy business internationally abroad and assisting foreign companies seeking to set up business or expand operations in Flanders. Before joining FIT, he was responsible for developing the energy and chemical cluster at the Port of Antwerp. Together with his team, he managed to attract the largest industrial investment for over 20 years to Antwerp. Furthermore, he has worked intensively on sustainable development and energy transition by, amongst others, initiating a large-scale carbon capture and storage project.