

Invitation: 9th virtual meeting of the Expert Network on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development

16 February 2022, 15:00-16:15 CET

Dear Expert Network members,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 9th 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 16 February 2022 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 9th virtual meeting of the Expert Network on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development will focus on implementing an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, in particular on how implementation gaps can be assessed and how technical assistance needs can be identified. Developing countries potentially are the key beneficiaries of the IFD Agreement that is under negotiation at the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, developing WTO Members will only benefit from an IFD Agreement if they are able to effectively implement its provisions. Many developing and least-developed country WTO Members may need additional technical assistance to successfully implement the IFD Agreement.

A structured needs assessment process, similar to the process during the trade facilitation negotiations, could potentially help developing and least-developed country Members to successfully implement an IFD Agreement. Discussions about the usefulness and design of a needs assessment process during and/or after the negotiations are ongoing among WTO Members. In this Expert Network meeting elements of a framework for a needs assessment process in the context of the IFD negotiations will be developed and discussed. The session will discuss practical ways for conducting needs assessments, in particular with regard to guidelines and toolkits that are needed to enable WTO Members to self-assess their gaps and technical assistance needs. Furthermore, the meeting will discuss which agencies and stakeholders need to be involved and which legal and regulatory frameworks will be covered in a needs assessment. The feedback received in the context of this Expert Network meeting will inform the ITC/DIE project upcoming initiatives, including a technical paper on a conceptual framework for needs assessments.

Moderator: Axel Berger, Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

Opening speakers:

Sheri Rosenow, Customs Attorney and Counsellor, WTO – *“What can be learned from the trade facilitation process for the design of investment facilitation needs assessments?”*

Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead, International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum – *“Key stakeholders and legal and regulatory frameworks to be covered in the gap analysis and needs assessments process to support the implementation of an IFD Agreement”*

Kayula Siame, Permanent Secretary, Zambia Ministry of Higher Education – “*How can an investment facilitation needs assessment process be implemented in practice?*”

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

Everyone is encouraged to request the floor to speak (or send written questions or comments at any time during the meeting).

Please register for the meeting in order to receive the meeting link details (please [click here](#)).

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, Director (oic), Division for Market Development, ITC

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE

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

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](#).

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.

Sheri Rosenow

Sheri Rosenow is a customs attorney and counsellor at the WTO.’ She has been involved in issues related to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement since the negotiations began. She was responsible for the trade facilitation needs assessment programme and is currently responsible for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility. Prior to joining the WTO Secretariat, she worked as an advisor on customs and WTO accession issues for USAID projects in Central Asia and the Middle East. She started her career on the commercial legal staff of the US Customs Service.

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.

Kayula Siame

Kayula Siame is an economist by profession, with over fifteen years of experience in private sector development, trade, investment climate, business regulatory reform, business development, policy formulation, budget administration, strategic planning, and management. She has been a strategic leader of many trade and investment climate initiatives and programmes at national and regional levels, including coordinating the implementation of the TFA and the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement at the national level. She is currently the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education in Zambia and was previously Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry.

Matthew Stephenson

Matthew Stephenson is Policy and Community Lead for International Trade and Investment 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.