

**Key elements of responsible business conduct in a WTO Investment Facilitation for
Development Agreement**

3:00-4:00pm CET, 30 September 2022

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

**Key elements of responsible business conduct in a WTO Investment Facilitation for
Development Agreement**

30 September 2022, 3:00-4:00pm Central European Time (CET)

This is the 12th of a webinar series on investment facilitation for development, held in the framework of a joint ITC/IDOS [project](#) on Investment Facilitation for Development.

Like all ITC/IDOS events, 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.

The long-term objective of facilitating FDI flows is to foster sustainable development. In the context of the negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), one of the key components of promoting sustainable investment is responsible business conduct (RBC).

This public webinar—after an opening presentation on the status of negotiations of the IFD Agreement—will explore in greater detail key elements of responsible business conduct and how they are being advanced through international investment agreements and other actions. Particular attention will be given to supply-chain commitments, due diligence, stakeholder consultations, references to international standards, and the exchange of information on best practices. Attention will also be given to issues related to the degree of bindingness of obligations and the question of how the uptake of RBC can be promoted.

As usual, the results of the discussion will be communicated to the negotiators of the IFD Agreement.

The webinar will have the following agenda and speakers:

Opening remarks

Quan Zhao, Trade Policy Advisor, Division of Market Development, ITC

Moderator

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

Speakers

- **Sofia Boza**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO, co-Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development, *“The status of the WTO investment facilitation negotiations”*.

- **Federico Ortino**, Professor of International Economic Law, King's College London, “**Key elements of responsible business conduct in international investment agreements: trends**”.
- **Andrea Shemberg**, GBI Chair, “*Implementing key elements of responsible business conduct: trends, challenges and the way forward*”.
- **Louise Vytopil**, Vice Chair, International Chamber of Commerce, Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption, “*Implementing the responsible business conduct provision under the IFD Agreement*”.

Concluding remarks

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

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link that will be sent to you shortly before **3:00 pm CET on 30 September** and follow the instructions.

We look forward to welcoming you to the webinar!

With kind regards,

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

Axel Berger, Deputy Director (interim), IDOS

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

Background materials

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

Axel Berger, Yardenne Kagan, Karl P. Sauvant, eds., [Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers](#) (Geneva: ITC, 2022), second edition.

Karl P. Sauvant and Federico Ortino, “[The WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement needs a strong provision on responsible business conduct](#)”, *Columbia FDI Perspective*, no. 335 (11 July 2022).

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?](#)”, in Kabir Duggal, Gustavo Vaughn, Elora Farias, Mateo Verdías, and Gino Rivas, *What Does It Mean to be “Pro Arbitration”? Reflections on George Bermann’s Legacy by Columbia Law School Community* (forthcoming 2022).

Karl P. Sauvant and Evan Gabor, “[Facilitating sustainable FDI for sustainable development in a WTO Investment Facilitation Framework: Four concrete proposals](#)”, *Journal of World Trade*, vol. 55 (2021), pp. 261-286.

Bios:**Sofia Boza**

Sofía Boza is the Ambassador of Chile to the World Trade Organization, since July 2022. She has also taken over the co-coordination of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development. Prior to that, she was an Associate Professor and Chief at the Department of Rural Management and Innovation at the University of Chile and Professor at the Institute of International Studies at the same University. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Seville and a PhD in Economics from the Autonomous University of Madrid.

Federico Ortino

Federico Ortino is Professor of International Economic Law at The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. He is a member of the ILA Committee on the Rule of Law and International Investment Law; founding Committee Member (and former co-Treasurer) of the Society of International Economic Law; consultative member of the Investment Treaty Forum; general co-editor of the International Trade and Investment Law Series with Hart Publishing; editorial board member of the Journal of International Economic Law, Journal of International Dispute Settlement and Journal of World Investment and Trade. He has been involved as expert in projects with UNCTAD, ITC, OECD, IISD and WEF. He is a Consultant to Clifford Chance.

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>) 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.

Andrea Shemberg

Andrea Shemberg is Chair of the Steering Group of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights. She has worked on business and human rights for nearly 20 years before becoming Legal Advisor to John Ruggie, the-then UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Business and Human Rights (SRSG). In that capacity, she led the SRSG's work on investment contracts and treaties and participated in the drafting of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. She is a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics and a US-trained lawyer and has an MSc from the London School of Economics in Human Rights.

Louise Vytopil

Louise Vytopil, LLB MSc, has 15 years of experience in business and human rights. She acts as Vice-Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce's Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption and currently leads KPMG The Netherlands business and human rights service line. Previously, she worked as a corporate lawyer and was responsible

for the creation, landing and roll-out of the human rights strategy and programme for a major Dutch multinational company. She published many academic papers and articles and (co-) authored books on business and human rights in the past ten years.

Quan Zhao

Quan Zhao is Trade Policy Adviser at ITC's Division for Market Development. He has almost 20 years of experience in trade policy development and trade negotiations. He worked for the Ministry of Commerce of China in the Department for WTO Affairs and spent five years as a trade negotiator on services trade, digital trade and e-commerce at the Permanent Mission of China to the WTO. He was the Chair of WTO's Committee for Trade in Financial Services. Since 2014, he has been working for ITC on the design, management, implementation, and resource mobilization for technical assistance projects on services trade, e-commerce, digital trade, investment, G20, south-south cooperation, and SME competitiveness.