INVITATION: 7 MAY 2020, 3rd VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Dear Colleague,

Please find below the agenda for the 3rd meeting of the Commentary Group, to take place virtually on 7 May 2020, from 9:00am to 10:30am Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:30 Central European Time (CET), 21:00 to 22:30 China Standard Time (CST).

As a reminder, the Commentary Group’s mandate is to provide input on the content of the framework being developed at the WTO to facilitate cross-border investment and increase its development impact.

As background documents, please find the following attached:

a) The updated inventory of investment facilitation measures
b) A summary of the Streamlined Text of the WTO Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development
c) The submission by the European Commission to the WTO on investment facilitation for development

The 3rd meeting will focus on issues related to the implementation of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development and, specifically, will be geared to the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing countries regarding the implementation of various FDI facilitation measures. The discussion will be interactive. But we will have an introductory presentation of a maximum of 10 minutes, followed by short interventions (3-5 minutes) by selected members of the Commentary Group, before other members will have an opportunity to intervene. Some of the issues that will be addressed are:

- What are the most likely challenges that would be faced in the implementation of a multilateral framework in investment facilitation for development?
- How and in which areas can technical assistance and capacity building address such challenges of implementation?
- What are provisions to be included in a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development to guide technical assistance and capacity building towards addressing implementation challenges?

As in the case of earlier meetings, a summary of the discussions will be made available to the Structured Discussions.

Moderator: Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University/CCSI

Presentation: Khalil Hamdani, Visiting Professor, Lahore School of Economics, and former Director of UNCTAD Investment Division
Discussion starters:

- Douglas van den Berghe, Vice President, Advisory, Conway Inc
- Yofi Grant, CEO, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)
- Sophal Suon, Director, Investment Promotion and Public Affairs, Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC)
- Hanna Tatarchenko Welgacz, Investment Officer, APEX-Brazil

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00 am CET on 7 May and follow the instructions. If you are not able to connect online, you could connect using the dial-up options provided at the end of this email.

Join Zoom Meeting

If you face any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact Mohamad Fakhreddin (mfakhreddin@intracen.org).

With best regards,

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cc Rajesh Aggarwal (ITC), Axel Berger (DIE), Sean Doherty (WEF), Mohamad Fakhreddin (ITC), Quan Zhao (ITC)
Bios

**Douglas van den Berghe**

Dr. Douglas van den Berghe (PhD) is Vice President Advisory with Conway Inc. As a management and strategy consultant, he has assisted many corporate clients in successfully implementing their global investment strategies. He is considered one of the leading global experts on FDI, investment incentives, SEZs, and how to develop FDI policies for economic development and increase competitiveness. He has been an advisor and trainer to numerous governments, free zones, and investment promotion agencies (IPAs) in many countries and various international organizations. Douglas is currently advising multiple countries in emerging and frontier markets on their investment, and incentives policies.

**Yofi Grant**

Yofi Grant is the Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre appointed by H.E President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in February 2017. He represents Sub-Saharan Africa on the Steering Committee of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and is a Council Member of the Continental Business Network of the African Union which advises African governments on private sector finance and infrastructure. As a partner in the Databank Group, he had supervisory roles and also served as Executive Director for Business Development for the Databank Group. He has been partner and co-founder to a number of companies including Grant Dupuis Investment Limited, a real estate investment advisory firm, and Coldwell Banker Ghana. In addition, he recently co-founded Praxis Fortune Calibre, a firm that offers general business and advisory, and consulting services across the continent.

**Karl P. Sauvant**

Karl P. Sauvant, who 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](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), stepping down as its Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work, as a CCSI Resident Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.

**Matthew Stephenson**

Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead for International Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum, where he manages the Global Investment Policy initiative. In that capacity, he works closely with governments, firms, and civil society in several emerging markets to identify measures that facilitate investment and maximize investment’s sustainable development impact. This work led to the publishing of a white paper, together with WAIPA, in December 2019 entitled “What can governments do to facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys”. Previously, Matthew worked at the IFC on advisory services for investment policy, 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, where he has authored several policy proposals for the G20. Matthew has a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, a master's from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a bachelor's from the University of Oxford.

Sophal Suon

Sophal Suon has held a number of leadership roles in the public and private sectors. He is currently the Director of Public Relations and Promotion of Private Investment at the Council for the Development of Cambodia. In his career at the Council for the Development of Cambodia, he was involved in regional economic cooperation including ASEAN Investment Area, the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Economic Cooperation Program, UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network, ACMECS and the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. He is a lead negotiator for investment and is involved in the negotiations for various agreements including the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA) as well as ASEAN’s Investment Agreements with China and India and the investment chapters under ASEAN-Japan, the RCEP, and the Cambodia-China FTA. He was a member of Think-Tank for East Asia Economic Cooperation and East Asia Vision Group. Prior to assuming his career in the CDC, he served as a senior official in charge of Public Procurement at the Ministry of Economy and Finance. He worked extensively on economic development in various financial institutions including the Credit Committee for Rural Development, the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank, and the Investment Bank Berlin. He was Chief Accountant at the United Parcel Services (UPS). He received a bachelor’s degree in Accounting and Finance in 1995 in a joint program of San Francisco University and George Town University. Sophal Suon is also a graduate of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Carl Duisburg Centre in Germany, National University of Singapore, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Hanna Tatarchenko

Hanna Tatarchenko Welgacz is an investment officer at the Apex-Brasil, The Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency. She works on the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Brazil. She conducted researches that contributed to Brazilian national politics for inward and outward investment (International Investor Research 2018 and Internationalization Research 2016). Previously, Hanna has worked at several private companies, where she led the export/import operations and international sales department. Hanna was born and grew up in Ukraine and now is Brazilian national. She holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree in business administration from Pontificia Universidade Católica do Parana (PUC-PR). She researches and writes about international business (http://lattes.cnpq.br/2686651364872215) and teaches at UNICEUB University.