



Report on the High-level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: The benefits and challenges of international investment facilitation frameworks for development for African economies

3-4 March 2021, 3pm-6pm Addis time

The High-level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: The benefits and challenges of international investment facilitation frameworks for development for African economies, took place on 3-4 March 2021. It hosted 200 participants. The roundtable was co-organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC), the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the World Economic Forum (WEF), in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development project, jointly implemented by ITC and DIE.

The Roundtable offered a platform for strategic exchange on the dynamic policy discussions and negotiations on investment facilitation for development taking place on various levels and international fora, focused on Africa. The event provided the opportunity to reflect on the potential benefits and challenges of international frameworks on investment facilitation for development.

The workshop's programme is annexed to this report.

Summary of the main outcomes of the workshop

I. Investment facilitation for development in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The AfCFTA has 54 signatories out of 55 AU member states. The AfCFTA is poised to play a crucial role in revitalising African economies and boosting foreign direct investment (FDI). The phase II negotiations of the AfCFTA include a continent-wide Investment Protocol that is set to be concluded in December 2021.

Investment facilitation will constitute an instrumental part of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol. The Pan-African Investment Code, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Common Investment Agreement and the Southern African Development Community Finance and Investment Protocol were cited as examples of international investment agreements (IIAs) that include provisions on investment facilitation that will serve as templates for the AfCFTA going forward. In order to achieve the full potential of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol, it is important

to engage with investors through investment partnerships, increased transparency and the reduction of red tape and complex regulations. There needs to be ownership of the AfCFTA by governments, users, stakeholders, and civil society groups. These various parties need to come together to pool resources and expertise to understand which policies and practices increase the quality and quantity of FDI and how investment facilitation frameworks can effectively be implemented. Technical assistance and capacity building will play a key role in ensuring effective reforms for sustainable development. There needs to be a focus on technology, with the goal of the AfCFTA becoming a digital free trade area.

It was pointed out in analyses undertaken by UNECA and DIE that the economic benefits of implementing investment facilitation reforms are sizeable and can help African countries promote international FDI and intra-African investment that the continent needs to achieve its desired development goals. In an effort to redress this, the envisaged outcomes of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol negotiations will be the adoption of a harmonised and simplified regulatory regime based on transparency, predictability, inclusiveness, and cooperation.

Effective investment facilitation policies will be key to Africa's economic recovery. Previous attempts by African countries to develop policies to attract FDI have failed at increasing investment flows due to numerous reasons. These include a lack of proper legal and administrative frameworks to implement policies, as well as a lack of sufficient technical assistance and capacity building to implement such policies. In this respect, it is important to note that investment facilitation is not only about making it easier for investors to invest, but—importantly—also about building, enhancing and improving institutions to support investors and international cooperation in the interest of promoting development.

The following factors were identified as ones that African countries should take into account in designing and negotiating the AfCFTA Investment Protocol:

Quality of investment: Pay more attention to the quality of investment and promote responsible investment; factor in appropriate responses to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dispute prevention: Focus on amicable resolution of investment disputes by shifting emphasis from investment protection to investment facilitation. Investment facilitation reinforces and stimulates stronger relations between host countries and investors and focuses on preventing disputes through its cooperative approach.

Increased policy space: Provide host countries with greater regulatory space and flexibilities by recognising the right of states to regulate in pursuit of national development objectives and public interests.

Transparency and predictability: Ensure transparent and predictable investment rules that will make implementation more effective.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations: Involve the private sector in the Investment Protocol negotiations to ensure that the underlined framework is informed by its experience. The Protocol should also encompass CSR standards for investors, to ensure fairness.

Harmonisation of frameworks: Harness interlinkages between the Investment Protocol and other parts of the AfCFTA (particularly competition policy, intellectual property, e-commerce), international law and domestic legislations. Aspire to establish and strengthen complementarities and linkages by ensuring that the AfCFTA Investment Protocol builds synergies with similar

initiatives and processes underway such as the WTO negotiations on an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development (IFF4D).

The creation of a functional Common Investment Area: Efforts should be made to increase cooperation and peer learning to build capacities and stronger institutions required to effectively support the establishment of a functional Common African Investment Area.

Support of the AfCFTA Secretariat: Strengthen the AfCFTA Secretariat and ensure that the implementation of the AfCFTA is all-encompassing and inclusive of women, youth and MSMEs.

II. Participation of African Countries in the IFF4D negotiations

The WTO is making steady progress in the IFF4D negotiations. To date, 20 out of a total 106 WTO Members participating in the negotiations are from Africa. Despite reservations¹ that some African countries have regarding the on-going processes in the WTO, it is important that more African countries participate to ensure that the continent's needs and interests are well represented and its concerns are effectively addressed. As part of this discussion, it was stated that the WTO negotiations must address the risk of adopting obligations that are unattainable for countries that do not have the capacity in terms of institutions and structures. The negotiations should be as inclusive as possible, preferably with the participation of all WTO Members. It was suggested that the AfCFTA Secretariat could exchange views and experiences with the WTO Secretariat on Africa's experiences with investment facilitation reforms.

III. Investment facilitation national initiatives to reform the investment climate

Four main recommendations were presented to improve the investment climate:

Improve the business climate by making investment administration more efficient: It was emphasized that “ease of doing business” and economic growth are strongly correlated and that governments should undertake more investment facilitation efforts that make the business climate more efficient. This can include streamlining laws and regulations to ensure competitiveness and to modernise investment and industry specific codes in sectors that are particularly interesting for investors, including mining and other extractives, information and communications technology, infrastructure, banking, and tourism. Other efforts to modernise government processes and procedures for investors and businesses include government administration of licenses, permits and visas.

Political stability and policy predictability: It was emphasized that ensuring transparency and political stability with predictable regulatory and administrative frameworks are crucial for driving investment facilitation. The discussions highlighted the importance of a whole-of-government approach that ensures an effective implementation of investment facilitation reforms. Investment facilitation was additionally recommended to be addressed by governments as a continuous process, where systems, such as ministerial committees, should be put in place to agree on appropriate initiatives towards achieving more competitiveness and facilitating FDI. It was noted

¹ These were identified as including: the broad scope of application; the broad definition of measure and investment; wide sectoral coverage; use of mandatory language; and the relationship between investment facilitation and the Services Protocol.

that more needs to be done to ensure security, diminish corruption and enhance the sharing of policy information with stakeholders. It was further recommended to implement open policy frameworks that help to attract more skilled labour.

Implementing institutions to facilitate investments: Governments should establish institutions that gather all the relevant information, and they should create mechanisms to centralize interactions with investors and thereby enhance investment facilitation, such as one-stop-shops or business councils that enable businesses to register, adjust mortgages, seek work permits, obtain banking services as well as to obtain the relevant information on intellectual property rights. It was also recommended that, within the one-stop-shops to dedicate, if possible, one person to each business in order to establish communication on a regular basis and build trust-based relations.

Infrastructure development and digitalisation: Infrastructure development was strongly emphasised as key to investment facilitation. New commercial ports, airports, railways, roads, and electricity supply contribute to logistically interconnect the African continent and the rest of the world. This is important for connecting global supply chains as well as enhance intra-African investment flows. Governments were further advised to invest in digital solutions that are strong enablers of business and governance efficiency, both in relation to the establishment of businesses and their management, as this simplifies administrative procedures.

IV. Key investment facilitation measures for development

It was suggested that previous attempts by African countries to develop policies to attract FDI focused too much on an “investment protection” model that was too confrontational, rather than investment facilitation. The following key investment facilitation measures were discussed as being particularly supportive for development:

One-stop shops: Many investors fall between the cracks of different governmental organizations within a country and are required to fill the same forms in different agencies. This issue can be solved through “one-stop shops”, in which company registration is dealt with under one roof. There can be a lead organization that handholds investors throughout the entire journey. This can also involve the cooperation of investment organizations in investors’ home countries.

Consistency and predictability: Local and provincial agencies sometimes lack the knowledge or understanding of all the obligations the national government has undertaken. This could be avoided by hosting workshops with local and provincial authorities that deal with investment issues, to build capacity and make sure that information exists at the local level.

Investment grievance mechanism with an early warning system: There is a need for a mechanism that captures grievances and resolves them before they escalate into legal disputes. This should preferably be in the form of an institutional mechanism entrenched in law. It can also include a registry of grievances, providing accountability by identifying the number of investments and jobs saved, as well as negative reputational effects that were prevented. Implementing grievance mechanisms is an important tool to foster reinvestment opportunities as well as attract new FDI. Governments should promote the creation of a workable and user-friendly grievance management system based on coordination and a clear division of roles and responsibilities within the government when dealing with investors’ grievances. Furthermore, capacity must be built to establish such an institutional mechanism, which could take place in IPAs.

Quality investment: There should be impact assessments and requirements that investments have positive spill-over effects, such as job creation and environmental protection. These should come with a clear roadmap that includes performance pledges and goals to be delivered within a certain timeframe. Ghana is establishing a “recognized sustainable investor” mechanism through which investors commit to responsible business conduct and making best efforts to enhance certain FDI sustainability characteristics, in return for additional investment facilitation measures.

Mutually beneficial cooperation among countries: The AfCFTA Secretariat will be identifying comparative advantages within African countries by looking at regional value chains. It will seek to find one country’s value-added that can then feed into the productive capacities of other countries. African economies may split certain activities among different countries and promote themselves together.

Movement of investments across the continent: Investments should be able to fluidly go from country to country within Africa. There are three tiers of regulations and policies – national, bilateral and regional – which need to be harmonized to reduce regulatory fragmentation and enhance predictability.

Public-private dialogue mechanisms: It is important to partner with the private sector in the implementation of the IFF4D and AfCFTA agreements to ensure investment facilitation efforts respond to the actual needs of the private sector, including small and medium-size enterprises and contributes to the sustainable development goals of the continent. Public-private dialogues could include establishing mechanisms that enable governments to understand the needs of the private sector through, e.g., one-stop-shops, chambers of commerce or setting up investment councils that bring in the relevant stakeholders.

Technical assistance and capacity building: To ensure effective implementation of an investment facilitation framework, it is important that the negotiating parties commit to facilitate dissemination of knowledge, technical assistance and capacity building. Each government must assess its own needs in this matter, to develop long term capabilities for facilitating investment.

Implementation: To bring about the effective and timely implementation of an agreement, governments can aid this process by establishing a trust fund that will support developing countries in the negotiations, facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and pave the way for adopting and implementing investment facilitation frameworks. The activities of such a dedicated facility could include donor matchmaking, operating a funding programme, organize national workshops to address specific training needs to implement the agreement, and regional workshops that can incorporate dimensions of peer-to-peer learning as well as a dedicated website to disseminate information. Other key recommendations to ensure a successful implementation of an IFF4D include ensuring and harnessing reliable data, transparency and monitoring progress based on results-based management.

Annex 1 – Programme



High-level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: The benefits and challenges of international investment facilitation frameworks for development for African economies

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PROGRAMME

Day 1: High-level Segment

3 March, 2021

3:00-3:25	Opening addresses
<i>Chair</i>	Stephen Karingi , Director, Regional integration and trade division, United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA)
<i>Speakers</i>	Francis Mangeni , Director, AfCFTA Secretariat Pamela Coke-Hamilton , Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC) Børge Brende , President, World Economic Forum (WEF) Guest address: Yi Xiaozhun , Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization (WTO)
3:25-4:30	1st Session: International negotiations on investment facilitation for development in the context of the international investment regime: State of play and way forward
<i>Chair</i>	Stephen Karingi , Director, Regional integration and trade division, United Nations Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA)

<i>Speakers</i>	<p>Laura Paez, Chief Market Institutions Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – <i>“The AfCFTA: A Gamechanger for Investment towards an African Common Investment Area”</i></p> <p>Roslyn Ng'eno, Senior Investment Expert, African Union Commission – <i>“The state of play of the African Investment Protocol”</i></p> <p>Mathias Francke, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development – <i>“The state of play of the WTO negotiations of an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development”</i></p> <p>Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) – <i>“The economic impact of investment facilitation frameworks”</i></p>
<i>Discussant</i>	<p>Makane Moïse Mbengue, Professor and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva</p>
4:35-4:40	Coffee break
4:40-5:50	2nd Session: High-level segment: Investment facilitation: What do we hear from foreign investors and investment promotion agencies and what to do about it?
<i>Chair</i>	<p>Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University/Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)</p>
<i>Speakers</i>	<p>H.E. Gabriel Curtis, Minister of Investments and Public-Private Partnerships, Guinea</p> <p>Hon. Betty C. Maina, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Kenya</p> <p>H.E. Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria²</p> <p>Hon. Clare Akamanzi, Chief Executive Officer, Development Board, Rwanda</p> <p>Hon. Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa</p>

² Remarks were provided by Yewande Sadiku, Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission.

Discussants **Yofi Grant**, Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
Henry Loewendahl, CEO of Wavteq
Geoffrey White, Chief Executive Officer, Africa, Agility

5:50-6:00 **Concluding remarks**
Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Director, DIE

Day 2: Key Elements of Investment Facilitation for Development
4 March, 2021

3:00-3:05 **Welcome address**
Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business,
International Trade Centre (ITC)

3:05-3:15 **Setting the scene and reporting back: Key challenges of regional
investment policy-making**
Makane Moïse Mbengue, Professor and Director of the Department of
Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of
Law of the University of Geneva

3:20-4:30 **1st Session: Key investment facilitation measures for development**

Chair **Sean Doherty**, Head, International Trade and Investment, World Economic
Forum

Speakers **Roslyn Ng'eno**, Senior Investment Expert, African Union Commission –
*“Investment Facilitation in the AfCFTA Investment Protocol: key issues
to be addressed”*
Aschalaew Tadesse, Director of Investment Promotion of the Ethiopian
Investment Commission – *“What can we learn from investment
facilitation measures that directly contribute to (sustainable) development
taken in Ethiopia”*

Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead, International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum – *“Important, effective, and innovative investment facilitation measures for development”*

Discussants **Simon Galpin**, Senior Advisor and former Managing Director, Bahrain Economic Development Board

4:30-4:40 **Coffee break**

4:40-5:50 **2nd Session: Institutional mechanisms to enhance investment facilitation to sustainable development**

Chair **Axel Berger**, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

Speakers **Anabel Gonzalez**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) – *“The importance of needs assessments and technical assistance to implement and develop investment facilitation frameworks”*

Ndanga Kamau, President, ICC Africa Commission – *“The importance of public-private dialogue mechanisms to understand needs and work together on development outcomes”*

Ivan Nimac, Global Lead, Investment Policy and Promotion, World Bank Group – *“Dispute resolution/grievance mechanisms”*

Discussants **Sabine Ulrike Dall’Omo**, President, Africa, Siemens
Yewande Sadiku, Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission

5:50-6:00 **Concluding remarks**

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

Background materials

Axel Berger and Zoryana Olekseyuk, “Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development: Index maps adoption at domestic level”, Bonn: Germadding an Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), October 2019, [available here](#).

ECA, “Investment policies and bilateral investment treaties in Africa: implications for regional integration”, Addis Ababa: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2016, [available here](#).

ECA, “Linkages between double taxation treaties and bilateral investment treaties”, Addis Ababa: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2020, [available here](#).

ECA, “Drivers for boosting intra-African investment flows towards Africa's transformation”, Addis Ababa: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2020, [available here](#).

ITC/DIE, “What have we Learned in the Framework of a Project on Investment Facilitation for Development: A Summary”, Geneva and Bonn: International Trade Centre and German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, [available here](#).

Karl P. Sauvant and Evan Gabor, “Advancing Sustainable Development by Facilitating Sustainable FDI, Promoting CSR, Designating Recognized Sustainable Investors, and Giving Home Countries a Role”, [available here](#).

Karl P. Sauvant, Matthew Stephenson, Khalil Hamdani, and Yardenne Kagan, “An Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI: What? Why? How?”, Geneva and Bonn: International Trade Centre and German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, November 2020, [available here](#).

Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, “What Can Governments Do to Facilitate Investment? Important measures identified through surveys”, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and World Economic Forum, December 2019, [available here](#).

Bios

H.E. Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo

Following his inauguration by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, on 21 August 2019, Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo, CON, became Nigeria’s 40th Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment to oversee the government’s goal of economic diversification to non-oil revenue earnings. As the number one investment driver of Nigeria, he is leading the promotion of the government’s policies regarding ease of doing business, job creation, poverty eradication, industrialization, the standardization of bilateral trade agreements, stimulating the growth of domestic micro, small and medium-size enterprises, and a renewed roadmap to increase Nigeria’s FDI.

Rajesh Aggarwal

Rajesh Aggarwal is Chief of the Trade Facilitation & Policy for Business Section of the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva. He is leading a program of assisting the private sector in developing countries to be the change agent for trade policy reform and engage in business advocacy with their governments in design and implementation of trade policies and negotiating positions that reflect the business interests. Before joining the ITC, he worked for the Indian Government and participated in 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.

Hon. Clare Akamanzi

Clare Akamanzi is an International Trade and Investment Lawyer, who is currently the CEO of the Rwanda Development Board and a Cabinet Member. She has served the Government of Rwanda in several senior positions for the last 15 years. She is a Harvard Kennedy School MPA alum, and also holds an LLM (International Trade and Investment) from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She was a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum and was named one of Africa’s Top 50 Powerful Women by Forbes in 2020. In early 2020, she was appointed as a Founding Board Member of the World Health Organization Foundation (WHO-F). She was also recently appointed as an advisory board member of the Global Innovation Index (GII).

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.

Børge Brende

Børge Brende is President of the World Economic Forum. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of the Environment for the government of Norway. He was also a member of the Norwegian Parliament for many years, Secretary General for the Norwegian Red Cross and Chairperson of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, Board Member of Equinor, and Member of the Board of the Norwegian School of Economics.

Pamela Coke-Hamilton

Pamela Coke-Hamilton has served as Executive Director of the International Trade Centre since 1 October 2020. She joined ITC from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, where she was Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities. She served with the Jamaican Government, the Caribbean Forum in trade negotiations, and multilateral institutions, including the Organization of American States and InterAmerican Development Bank. She previously served as Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency,

strengthening the private sector and MSMEs through investment promotion. She holds a Juris Doctor in Law from the Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, DC.

H.E. Gabriel Curtis

Gabriel Curtis is the Guinean Minister of Investment and Public-Private Partnership since 2018. He is also the Commissioner General overseeing Guinea's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai. He was previously the Managing Director of the Private Investment Promotion Agency for four years. Before coming back to his native Guinea, he worked for 7 years at BNY Mellon including as Senior Manager of the Stress test team in the EMEA region. He holds a master's degree in International Relations and International Finance from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Commerce from McGill University.

Sabine Dall'Omo

Sabine Dall'Omo has worked at Siemens for 33 years. Sabine's career at Siemens began with her vocational training at Siemens Germany from 1986-1989. Progressing up the ranks, she took on various positions working in the USA, China and Germany. In 2004 to 2008, she headed up the Risk and Controlling, Mergers and Acquisitions and in 2008 she took over the Commercial Responsibilities for Siemens Healthcare. In 2012, she was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Siemens Cluster Africa and effective 1st of July 2014, she was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Southern and Eastern Africa. She also holds other Board positions including Siemens Mobility, the German-Africa Association (Afrika-Verein) and the NEPAD Business Foundation.

Sean Doherty

Sean Doherty is head of International Trade & Investment and a member of the executive committee at the World Economic Forum. He leads the Forum's work on trade tensions, digital trade, sustainable FDI, international tax and competition, the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and the Global Future Council on Trade & Investment. He has headed the World Economic Forum's Supply Chain & Transport, Chemicals and Mining and Metals industry communities. He worked previously in the trading and logistics sector and as a management consultant. He holds master's degrees in aeronautical engineering, molecular biology, business administration and international economic law.

Mathias Francke

Mathias Francke is Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development and the 2019 APEC SOM Chair. Previously, he was Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Director for Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chief of Cabinet, and senior advisor at the Chilean Vice Minister of Trade. As a Foreign Service officer since 1989, he was posted in the Chilean UK embassy (2014 to 2018), Chile's Permanent Mission to the WTO (2000 to 2005, and as Deputy Head of Mission from 2006 to 2010) and the Trade Office of the Chilean Embassy to the USA (1992 to 1996). He is a lawyer from the Catholic University of Chile and has a graduate degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Simon Galpin

Simon Galpin initially joined the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) in 2016 as Managing Director and now serves as the Senior Advisor on Investment Promotions. Prior to

joining the EDB, he spent over 20 years in Hong Kong, as a Director-General at Invest Hong Kong, where he created the StartmeupHK initiative that helped launch the start-up and fintech movement in Hong Kong. He began his economic development career with Scottish Enterprise, in Glasgow, at that time Europe's largest development agency. He is a Doctor of Juridical Science and holds master's degrees in Business Administration, Local Economic Development and International Business Law.

Anabel Gonzalez

Anabel Gonzalez is non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington DC, and a consultant on trade and investment. She is the host of Trade Winds, a virtual event series. As former Senior Director of the World Bank's Global Practice on Trade & Competitiveness, she led the Bank's agenda on trade, investment climate, competitiveness, innovation, and entrepreneurship. She served as Minister of Trade of Costa Rica, heading the country's strategy to join the OECD; negotiated several trade agreements and contributed to attract over 140 FDI projects. She also was Director of the WTO's Agriculture Division and Director-General of Costa Rica's Investment Promotion Agency.

Yofi Grant

Yofi Grant is a renowned Ghanaian investment banker with over 30 years of extensive work experience in banking and finance. He currently serves on the advisory boards of the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and also a member of the board of trustees of the ACP Endowment and Trust Fund. Having served in various capacities in corporate finance, credits, marketing, and investment banking, he has broad knowledge and exposure in the African financial markets and has cultivated strong relationships with international private equity funds, portfolio investment managers and brokerage funds. He was also Special Advisor to the Minister for Private Sector Development from 2002-2006.

Anna-Katharina Hornidge

Anna-Katharina Hornidge is Director of the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) and Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn. Before joining DIE in March 2020, she was Professor of Social Sciences in the Marine Tropics at the University of Bremen and Head of Department "Social Sciences" and the research group "Development and Knowledge Sociology" at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen. From 2006 to 2015, she worked as Senior Researcher for the Centre for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, where she held the position of Professor and Director in the Department of Social and Cultural Change from 2014 to 2015.

Ndanga Kamau

Ndanga Kamau is an international lawyer and founder of Ndanga Kamau Law, an international law practice based in The Hague. She specialises in international dispute settlement, public international law, and foreign investment law. She sits as arbitrator in institutional and ad hoc arbitrations, represents clients in international disputes. She also advises clients on dispute avoidance and risk mitigation. Prior to setting up her own practice, she worked in international law firms, an arbitral institution, government, and international organisations. She is Kenyan and has lived in Cape Town, Geneva, Houston, London, Mauritius, Nairobi and The Hague.

Stephen Karingi

Stephen Karingi is currently the Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Prior joining the United Nations in April 2004, he was Senior Analyst and the Head of Macroeconomics Division in the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), a Public Policy Think-Tank. Before KIPPRA he served as a Lecturer of Economics at Egerton University. He has published extensively in major academic peer-reviewed journals and contributed chapters in edited books with renowned publishers. He has contributed to global and regional policy dialogues through prominent Think-Tanks. Today he spearheads policy research in various areas within the ECA.

Henry Loewendahl

Henry Loewendahl was previously Product Director in the Financial Times, Managing Director of Investment Products in OCO Global, Manager of Inward Investment in IBM, and Senior Consultant in PwC. He has 20 years of FDI experience, working with over 120 economic development organisations and MNEs in over 60 countries. He has a PhD in FDI, and is a pioneer in expanding our knowledge of FDI, competitiveness and investment promotion. He is the inventor of fDi Markets, fDi Benchmark, the IncentivesMonitor, FDI Professionals, and FDI Accounting. He has over 50 publications and presentations on FDI and investment promotion and has managed projects delivering over US\$10 billion of FDI.

Hon. Betty C. Maina

Betty C. Maina, EGH - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development since 2020, has more than 27 years' experience in organizational leadership and development, with an ability to prepare and implement strategic business plans and mobilize resources. She has a keen interest and experience in Trade Policy, Regional Integration, Private Sector Development, Industrial Development, Public-Private Dialogue, Business and Society, Sustainable Development, Integrated Development, Education, Corporate Sustainability, Government Relations, and Advocacy. She attained a Master of Science Degree in Development Administration and Planning from the University College of London in 1998.

Francis Mangeni

Francis Mangeni is currently Head of Trade Promotion and Programs with the African Continental Free Trade Area. His past positions include Senior Economist and Diplomat at the African Union Embassy to the UN, the WTO and the Common Fund for Commodities; and Africa Regional Trade Policy Advisor. He was Director of Trade, Customs and Monetary Affairs of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) from 2009 to 2020. He has various charities which support public health and education, and holds a Doctorate in International Economic Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK).

Makane Moïse Mbengue

Makane Moïse Mbengue is Professor and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. He is also an Affiliated Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law). He is the President of the African Society of International Law. He was the Lead Expert for the negotiations and drafting of the Pan-African Investment Code (PAIC) in the context of the African Union. He is involved in several

investment negotiations across Africa. He acts as counsel in disputes before international courts and tribunals (in particular the International Court of Justice) and as arbitrator and expert in investment arbitration proceedings.

Roslyn Ng'eno

Roslyn Ng'eno is the Senior Investment Expert to the AfCFTA Negotiating Support Unit of the African Union Commission. She is in charge of supporting the Negotiations and development of the Investment Protocol to the AfCFTA, by providing strategic guidance to the Member States. Working for Intergovernmental organizations as well as government, she has provided technical assistance in drafting and revisions of continental and regional investment treaties and models and has been involved in the development of National and Regional Investment policies and advocating for and supporting delivery of initiatives aimed at enhancing private sector led economic growth and competitiveness through targeted investment climate reforms.

Ivan Nimac

Ivan Anton Nimac has been the World Bank Group's (WBG) Global Lead for Investment Policy and Promotion since July 2018. His team supports a portfolio of activities, including government advisory, development lending and an array of learning and knowledge activities to help countries attract and retain FDI. Before joining the WBG in 2006, he held positions in law, diplomacy and international development with the Australian and Croatian governments and the United Nations. He holds degrees in economics, law and international relations.

Laura Páez

Laura Páez is Chief of the Market Institutions Section at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Her work focuses on the regulatory and policy dimensions of investment, competition, intellectual property, services and digitalization in Africa, in support the African Continental Free Trade Area. Prior to ECA, she worked at the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development in Geneva on African development issues. She has extensive policy and academic experience on financial services, regionalism, FDI, trade liberalization and negotiations. She is author of several peer reviewed papers and regularly participates in conferences, lectures and seminars around the world.

Hon. Ebrahim Patel

Ebrahim Patel was appointment Minister responsible for Trade, Industry and Competition in 2019. Prior to this, he was South Africa's Minister of Economic Development, since May 2009. As Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, he is responsible for the development and implementation of industrial policy including investment, competition, industrialisation, trade, consumer protection and technical standards. He worked with a number of other ministries to lead the state's approach to infrastructure development. He has served on the Governing Body of the UN agency, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and led global negotiations on matters as human resources development, social justice and the Global Employment Agenda.

Yewande Sadiku

Yewande Sadiku has been Executive Secretary/CEO of Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, Nigeria's foremost investment promotion agency, since November 2016. Until

October 2016, she was the Executive Director responsible for Stanbic IBTC Group's Corporate and Investment Banking business. She has an interest in bringing formal financing to the Nigerian film industry and raised funding for Half of a Yellow Sun (2014), a full feature film. She was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship for International Leadership in May 2010 and was one of "35 International Women Under 35" featured in the October 2007 edition of World Business Magazine.

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>), 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). 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.

Prudence Sebahizi

Prudence Sebahizi is the Chief Technical Advisor on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Head of the AfCFTA Negotiations Support Unit, since August 2016. With immense experience in international trade and integration, he provides technical and Strategic advice to the AfCFTA Negotiating Institutions on the AfCFTA Negotiations. He's the overall coordinator of AfCFTA negotiations and coordinates a team of senior experts and advisors on various issues under negotiations. He has a wealth of knowledge in trade matters and has acquired a Master's degree in International Development Policy from Seoul National University, South Korea. He also played a key role in the accession of Rwanda to the EAC.

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. Since 2017 he has been 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.

Aschalew Tadesse

Aschalew Tadesse is Director of the Investment Promotion and Marketing Directorate at the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) where he is responsible for overseeing investment opportunity identification and promotion, design, and implementation of overseas promotional activities. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Federal Studies from Addis Ababa University School of Development Studies, and Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Languages from Addis Ababa University.

Geoffrey White

Geoffrey White, CEO of Agility Africa, is an expert on infrastructure development, retail supply chains, agri-business, and investment for African markets. Agility has over \$5.4 billion in revenue, 24,000+ employees, and offices in more than 100 countries. Agility is funding and developing an extensive network of warehouse distribution parks across Africa to provide international standard infrastructure to support both multinational corporations and the growth of SMEs. He joined Agility in 2014 after serving as CEO of Lonrho Plc for 8 years, where he developed product supply chains for some of the world's largest retailers and developed essential infrastructure and logistics facilities for Africa's burgeoning oil and gas industry.

Yi Xiaozhun

Yi Xiaozhun has been a Deputy Director-General at the WTO since October 2013. He has extensive experience in world trade and economics, both as a senior government official and subsequently as China's ambassador to the WTO. He represented China as a key negotiator in China's WTO accession process, making an important contribution to the negotiations. Prior to becoming China's ambassador to the WTO in 2011, Mr. Yi was Assistant Minister and subsequently China's Vice Minister of Commerce in charge of multilateral and regional trade negotiations and cooperation. Besides his contribution to China's WTO accession, he played a leading role in negotiating numerous free trade agreements.