

**Invitation webinar: The potential value-added of an Investment Facilitation Framework
for Development, 19 January 2021, 15:00-16:15 Central European Time (CET)**

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Development Institute/
Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

**The potential value-added of an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development
19 January 2021, 15:00-16:15 Central European Time (CET)**

This is the 6th of a webinar series on investment facilitation for development, held in the framework
of a joint ITC/DIE project on Investment Facilitation for Development.

To register for the event and receive the meeting link details please [click here](#).

The webinar will focus on the potential value-added of a WTO Investment Facilitation Framework
for Development. It is well established that countries seek to attract foreign direct investment
(FDI), to advance their economic growth and development. However, since the bulk of any
investment facilitation effort is undertaken at the national level, one must ask why seeking to create
a multilateral framework (which is a difficult and time-consuming effort) is important and should
be endeavoured, especially in the current political climate.

The principal purpose of a multilateral investment facilitation framework is to further increase FDI
flows for development and enhance international cooperation in the investment area. During the
webinar, the following issues related to the potential value-added of an Investment Facilitation
Framework for Development will be addressed:

- Potential costs and benefits of such a Framework.
- Helping domestic reforms and facilitating more sustainable FDI flows.
- Requiring transparency of home country measures and encouraging the observance of
investors' CSR commitments.
- Maintaining an inventory and benchmarks of good investment facilitation practices and
increasing technical assistance.

The webinar will be conducted in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants.

The webinar will have the following agenda and speakers:

Introduction: **Rajesh Aggarwal**, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

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

Zoryana Olekseyuk, Senior Researcher at DIE - *Potential welfare gains from different investment facilitation frameworks: interim results*

Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder, Executive Director, IISD Europe

Jansen Calamita, Head of Investment Law & Policy, Centre for International Law, and Research Associate Professor (CIL), Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

Anabel González, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Yewande Sadiku, Executive Secretary/CEO, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission

Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead, International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum

Concluding remarks: **Axel Berger**, Senior Researcher, DIE

If you would like to send written questions or comments during the webinar, please feel free to type them into the chat window by clicking on the “chat” button on the middle-bottom pane of the Zoom window.

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link that will be sent to you shortly before **15:00 pm CET on 19 January** and follow the instructions. If you are not able to connect online, you could connect using the dial-up options provided in the email that you will receive after completing the registration.

We look forward to welcoming you to the webinar!

With kind regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE

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

Background material

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, Nov. 2020), [available here](#).

Bios:

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.

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.

Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder

Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder is a senior international lawyer and heads the Economic Law & Policy program of the International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD) and is Executive Director of IISD Europe. She has extensive legal, policy and training experience in the area of international trade, investment, sustainable development, human rights, international environmental law, and arbitration. She previously worked as an attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law in Washington and Geneva, where she also managed the office. She is admitted to the Bar of Basel and has worked for the Justice Department, Berne, in the Section for International Law.

N Jansen Calamita

N Jansen Calamita is Head of Investment Law & Policy, Centre for International Law, and Research Associate Professor (CIL), Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. Prior to entering academia, he served in the Office of the Legal Adviser in the US Department of State and as a member of the UNCITRAL Secretariat. He began his career in private practice in New York. He is co-editor (with L Malintoppi) of *International Litigation in Practice* (Brill) and a member of the editorial board of the *Yearbook of International Law and Policy* (Oxford University Press).

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.

Zoryana Olekseyuk

Zoryana Olekseyuk is a Senior Researcher at DIE. Her work focuses on economic integration/disintegration, trade, FDI, and investment facilitation, mainly with respect to developing and emerging economies. Being an experienced computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeler, she developed many innovative CGE models, e.g., incorporating data from heterogeneous firms and FDI in services. She has contributed to many international research projects and acts as a consultant for the World Bank. Her research is published in such journals as *World Economy*, *Empirica*, *Review of Development Economics*, *Economic Modeling*, and the *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*.

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.

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.