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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

Webinar invitation: The forthcoming negotiations on a WTO Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development, February 11, 2020, 16:00-17:00 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 the first of a joint ITC/DIE webinar series on investment facilitation for development:

THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON A WTO MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

on February 11, 2020, 16:00 - 17:00 Central European Time.

Please [register](#) if you are interested in attending this webinar.

At a stock-taking and next-steps meeting of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development held last December in Geneva, participating WTO members decided to move into negotiating mode as of March 2020. Negotiations will be guided by the Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development adopted in December 2017 by 70 WTO members at the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, as well as by the subsequent Joint Ministerial Statement endorsed by 98 WTO members in November 2019 (see links below).

After an organisational meeting to be held in February 2020, negotiations will likely begin in March, based notably on a text consolidating the contributions made so far during the Structured Discussions. The 98 co-signatories of the November 2019 Joint Ministerial Statement committed themselves to "intensify work (...) and work towards a concrete outcome on Investment Facilitation for Development at the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference" to be held in Kazakhstan in June 2020.

Discussions so far have focussed on practical measures concerned with improving the transparency and predictability of national investment frameworks, streamlining and speeding up administrative procedures and requirements related to foreign investors, and enhancing coordination and cooperation among stakeholders. During the negotiation phase, members will face the challenge of transferring conceptual proposals into concrete treaty language that broadly reflects the interests of the participating WTO members.

The webinar—which will be conducted in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants—will discuss key issues relating to the negotiations:

- What is the state of play of the ongoing discussions on this issue and their main elements, and where do we go from here?
- What are the principal facilitation measures considered so far?
- How can such a framework include a strong pro-development dimension and promote sustainable FDI?
- What value would an Investment Facilitation Framework add to national and bilateral investment facilitation efforts?
- What are the principal obstacles negotiators face?

Introduction: Matthew Wilson, Chief Adviser & Chef de Cabinet, International Trade Centre

Moderator: Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, New York

Panellists:

- Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn
- Felipe Henriquez, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO and Advisor to the Coordinator of the Structured Discussions
- Mathew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead, Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum
- Zixuan Zhou, Permanent Mission of China to the WTO, Geneva

Background materials:

[WTO Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development \(December 2017\).](#)

[WTO Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development \(November 2019\).](#)

[Crafting a Framework on Investment Facilitation, ICTSD Policy Brief.](#)

[Concrete measures for a Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development: Report.](#)

[What can Governments do to Facilitate Investment? A Menu of the Most Important Measures Identified through Surveys.](#)

[Advancing Sustainable Development by Facilitating Sustainable FDI, Promoting CSR, Designating Recognized Sustainable Investors, and Giving Home Countries a Role.](#)

[Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development: Index Maps Adoption at Domestic Level, DIE Longread.](#)

Kind regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Axel Berger, Karl P. Sauvant

Bios

Axel Berger

Axel Berger is a Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Programme Transformation of Economic and Social Systems. He is heading the G20 Policy Research Group at DIE and led the T20 Task Force on Trade, Investment and Tax in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Axel holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Duisburg-Essen and a Master's degree from the Munich Ludwig-Maximilians-University in political science, economics and modern history. 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.

Felipe Henríquez

Felipe Henríquez is a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO, in charge of Trade in Services, Investment, E-commerce, Trade and Environment, and Government Procurement. He has professional experience as negotiator and head of negotiating teams of Free Trade Agreements (Chapters on Investment, Services, Temporary Entry for Business Persons, Telecommunications and E-commerce), participant in plurilateral and multilateral fora (TPP, Pacific Alliance, WTO, OECD, APEC, UNASUR) and negotiator of Air Services Agreements and Mutual Recognition Agreements.

Karl P. Sauvant

Karl P. Sauvant, Ph.D., 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 Fostering Knowledge and a Common Understanding 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 is 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 maximise 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.

Matthew Wilson

Matthew Wilson is the Chief Advisor to the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of the ITC. Prior to this he served in the Cabinet of Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO. He was the Deputy Aid for Trade Coordinator at the WTO and was a trade and human rights negotiator for Barbados. He has a MSC degree in International Development, MSC Post-Graduate degree in International Relations and Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Sociology.

Zixuan Zhou

Zixuan Zhou is the third Secretary in the Permanent Mission of China to the WTO and the focal point for China's engagement in the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development in the WTO. She is also responsible for the coordination of Friends of Investment Facilitation for Development (FIFD).