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:

- If there were need assessments of the capacity of IPAs to implement various investment facilitation measures (see, e.g., the inventory of investment facilitation measures), what are the 3-5 most important areas in which technical assistance would be required?
- How 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.
- José Chinjamba, Administrator, Angolan Agency for Private Investment and Promotion of Exports
- Yofi Grant, CEO, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
- Sophal Suon, Director, Investment Promotion and Public Affairs, Council for the Development of Cambodia
- Hanna Tatarchenko Welgacz, Investment Officer, APEX-Brazil
- Philippe Yverniaux, Director, International Cooperation, Business France

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

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)