

**INVITATION: 7th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A
MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT, 18 May 2021**

Dear Colleague,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 7th meeting of the Commentary Group, to take place virtually on 18 May 2021, from 9:00am to 10:15am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:15 Central European Time (CET), 21:00 to 22:15 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 undated *Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI*, available at <https://www.intracen.org/itc/Investment-Facilitation-for-Development/>.
- b) The summaries of previous Commentary Group meetings (which were shared with WTO negotiators), available at <https://www.intracen.org/itc/Investment-Facilitation-for-Development/>.

The 7th meeting will focus on increasing the effectiveness of IPAs to facilitate sustainable FDI flows and key technical assistance needs. During the meeting we will seek to identify key areas in which IPAs will need assistance to put in place investment facilitation measures, including to implement the commitments under a WTO Investment Facilitation Framework for Development, and specifically to facilitate sustainable FDI.

As with previous meetings, a summary of the discussions will be made available to the WTO's Structured Discussions.

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

Panelists:

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) - *"Gaps in investment facilitation measures"*

Rifat Parvez, Additional Secretary, Board of Investment, Pakistan - *"Key capacity building and technical assistance needs: a national perspective"*

Russell Curtis, Head, Invest Durban - *“Key capacity building and technical assistance needs: a sub-national perspective”*

Shahzada Dawood, Vice Chairperson, Dawood Hercules Corporation Ltd - *“Key capacity building and technical assistance needs: a private sector perspective”*

Sebastian Reil, Manager, FDI Center - *“Key capacity building and technical assistance needs: an investor-service provider perspective”*

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 18 February 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 technical difficulties or have general questions, please do not hesitate to contact Yardenne Kagan (ykagan@intracen.org).

With best regards,

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Bios of speakers

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.

Russell Curtis

Russell Curtis has been running the Durban Investment Promotion Authority, Invest Durban, for 18 years. He is a NED of the Durban Chamber of Commerce, the Durban Auto Cluster, and past Chair of the Institute of Directors. Previously, he was also on The Mercury Editorial Board, Independent Newspapers. He sat on the UN Investment Advisory Council 2008/9, and 2016/17. He also served on the MCI/World Bank Expert Advisory Group on City Investment Promotion and jointly authored publications. He has been a UN World Investment Forum invited speaker. He holds a degree of Chartered Associate, Institute of Bankers SA and a Post Grad Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Wales.

Shahzada Dawood

Shahzada Dawood is Vice Chairperson of Dawood Hercules and is on the Boards of Engro Corporation and Dawood Lawrencepur. He is known for his expertise in finding growth opportunities through M&As in a wide spectrum of industries. He stewards the Group's technology investments. He is a member of the Global Advisory Board for Prince's Trust International, is in the Founder's Circle of The British Asian Trust and is a Trustee on the Boards of SETI Institute, The Dawood Foundation and Engro Foundation. He holds a M.Sc. in Global Textile Marketing from Philadelphia University, USA, and an LLB from Buckingham University, UK.

Rifat Parvez

Rifat Parvez is working in Pakistan Board of Investment. He has vast experience of public policy, investment policy, policy advocacy, investment, promotion and facilitation. He has been the Chief negotiator of Pakistan dealing with international investment agreements. He has been involved in drafting Pakistan's Foreign Private Investment Act, Investment Strategy and bilateral investment treaty strategy for Pakistan. He was the lead officer for drafting the bilateral investment treaty template for Pakistan.

Sebastian Reil

Sebastian Reil is manager at the FDI Center, a leading advisory firm in the field of foreign direct investment. He works with countries, regions, cities, special economic zones, and industrial parks from around the world to develop and implement successful strategies for attracting and retaining investment. Previously, he worked as a management consultant and as a researcher at a think tank on topics of industrial development. He holds master's degrees from Peking University and the University of Groningen as well as a bachelor's degree from Heidelberg University.

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>). He currently assists, as Senior International Advisor, 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.