

**Invitation webinar: Investment dispute prevention and management at the national level,  
25 February 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:

**Investment dispute prevention and management at the national level, 25 February 2021,  
15:00-16:15 Central European Time (CET)**

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 **investment dispute prevention and management at the national level**. During the webinar, the following issues will be addressed:

- The function of dispute prevention and management and the various forms it can take.
- Best practices, including specific country examples of setting up dispute prevention mechanisms.
- The importance of conflict prevention and management at the national level and how such mechanisms could be reflected in an investment facilitation framework for development.

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: Axel Berger**, Senior Researcher, DIE

**Speakers:**

**Priyanka Kher**, Private Sector Specialist, Investment Policy and Promotion, World Bank Group  
– *“The function of dispute prevention and management and the various forms it can take”*

**Carlos Jose Valderrama**, Attorney at Law – “*Best practices, including specific country examples of setting up dispute prevention mechanisms*”

**Valéria Mendes Costa**, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil – “*The importance of conflict prevention and management and how such mechanisms could be reflected in an investment facilitation framework for development*”

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

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 25 February** 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 to 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.

## **Valéria Mendes Costa**

Valéria Mendes Costa is a diplomat at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She currently works in the Services and Industry Promotion Department, dealing with investment issues. Previously, she served in the Brazilian Mission to the WTO, where she was in charge of dispute settlement. She has a Bachelor's degree in law from the Catholic University of São Paulo, a Master Degree in Political Science from Sciences Po - Paris and a Master Degree in International Dispute Settlement from the Graduate Institute - Geneva.

## **Priyanka Kher**

Priyanka Kher is a Private Sector Specialist in the Investment Climate Unit of the World Bank Group. She leads research and policy advisory projects in developing countries in Asia and Africa on investment climate reforms, dispute prevention, investment retention and expansion and international trade and investment law. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, she practiced law at law firms in India and Singapore. She has also worked with UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat on investment policy. She holds a master's degree in law from Harvard Law School and is a dual qualified attorney admitted to practice in New York and India.

## **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.

## **Carlos José Valderrama**

Carlos José Valderrama is an independent counsel working on international dispute prevention and resolution matters, focusing on international investment disputes under investment treaties and

government contracts. He chaired for several years the Republic of Peru's inter-agency commission representing the state in international investment disputes. He oversaw Peru's defense in investment treaty arbitrations amounting to nearly US \$50 billion in claims, all of which resulted in favorable outcomes for the State. He managed complex negotiations to resolve a number of international investment disputes, advised different state agencies on treaty and contract provisions related to dispute resolution, and assisted such agencies in evaluating risks and avoiding disputes.