



## **Report: High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit\***

The **‘High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit’** was co-organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) (formerly German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)), and the World Economic Forum (Forum). The Roundtable was convened as part of the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development project, jointly implemented by ITC and IDOS. It took place on 19 May 2022, from 9:00am-11:30am CET, 2pm-4:30pm Bangkok, Thailand (GMT+7).

The Roundtable included the following speakers (in alphabetical order): Axel Berger, Deputy Director (interim), IDOS; Sushil Bhatta, CEO, Investment Board, Nepal; Børge Brende, President, Forum; Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP; Craig Burchell, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.; Burak Dağlıoğlu, President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey; Ismail Ersahin, CEO (a.i.), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA); Mathias Francke, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development; Anabel González, Deputy Director-General, WTO; Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Sunghwan Lee, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva; Michael Lim, Executive Director, Crowe Malaysia; Federico Ortino, Professor of International Economic Law, King’s College London; Pavidia Pananond, Professor, Thammasat University; Ariffin Sulaiman, Assistant Head of FAST (FDI Action and Support Centre under the BEDB), Brunei Darussalam; Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, ITC; Manothong Vongxay, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR; Renuka Weerakone, Director General, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka; and Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP. The guest address by Anabel González, Deputy Director-General, WTO, is published on the ITC-IDOS project website.

The programme of the Roundtable is attached to this report.

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\* This report was prepared by the joint [ITC-IDOS project on Investment Facilitation for Development](#). It aims to provide a summary of the discussions and does not necessarily reflect the views of the agencies co-organizing this event.

## Discussion highlights

The discussions during the Roundtable focused on the following points, which are further elaborated upon below.

- The Covid-19 pandemic damaged the global economic landscape over the past two years. While the severity of its shock varied by regions, it is noteworthy that the Asia and Pacific region remained more resilient than other regions in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. However, recent geo-political tensions, as well as the intensification of the climate change crisis, may threaten the stability of future FDI flows to and from the region. Boosting the quantity and quality of FDI flows could play an important part in helping the Asia and Pacific region build back better after the pandemic and aligning FDI with reaching national aspirations and commitments for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Investment facilitation can play an important role in stimulating FDI flows and is a critical part of the instruments that can be used for economic recovery. Asian and Pacific economies have already taken positive steps and have been actively working on facilitating investment. It is important to align these efforts to facilitate sustainable FDI, which can help bolster the Asia and Pacific region's economic resilience, support employment growth and catalyse sustainable social economic development.
- The negotiations of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have been Member-driven, transparent and open to all WTO Members. The negotiations gather over 110 WTO Members – more than two-thirds of the membership. Negotiators are aiming to conclude the IFD Agreement text by the end of 2022. The negotiations focus on developing international guidelines to improve the Members' investment climate. The focus is not on changing national investment policies, but rather on implementing them and administering them transparently, efficiently and predictably. The Agreement is not only about attracting more FDI, but also better and more sustainable investment.
- The IFD Agreement is an important initiative that could offer a critical global solution to maintaining the growth momentum in the post pandemic era. The Agreement can complement, strengthen and standardise national and regional reform efforts on investment facilitation in the Asia and Pacific region. It will also provide a global forum to enhance cross-border cooperation on investment facilitation.
- Recent global trends, including sustainability, digitalisation, decarbonisation and green economy agendas, should be reflected and strengthened in the IFD Agreement. It should also put special emphasis on small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), which need to be provided with special investment facilitation measures. It is important that governments engage with the private sector to understand its needs and challenges and how the Agreement can support its investments. Concluding the negotiations this year would make a difference and provide the roadmap and resources needed to support the implementation of investment facilitation measures under the Agreement, which will complement national and regional initiatives as well.
- The measures contained in the IFD Agreement are demanding with respect to the capacity to implement them for some developing and least developed country (LDC) Members. Accordingly, it is essential to provide special and differential treatment, capacity building and technical assistance in order to ensure that developing Members benefits from the

implementation of the Agreement. Of particular importance are needs assessments, supported by international organisations, to help members to identify implementation gaps and national and international supporting policies.

- Asian and Pacific countries have been pioneers in investment facilitation, and their experience can provide valuable guidance that could further enable a comprehensive IFD Agreement to overcome the vulnerability and uncertainty stemming from current crises. The voice of the Asia and Pacific region is essential to produce a high-quality agreement that will serve businesses, communities and countries in Asia and the Pacific and around the world.

### **I. The importance of investment facilitation for the Asia and Pacific region**

The Covid-19 pandemic damaged the global economic landscape over the past two years. While the severity of its shock varied by regions, it is noteworthy that the Asia and Pacific region remained more resilient than other regions in terms of FDI inflows. FDI flows to developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region fell by 4% in 2020, compared with more than 40% globally. In a time of turmoil and increased uncertainty, the Asia and Pacific region has remained a top destination for FDI, with more than half of worldwide inward FDI flows in 2020. However, data on investment activity to and from the Asia and Pacific region for the first quarter of 2022 is worrying. Greenfield investment was 96% lower compared to the same time last year, and mergers and acquisitions were 25% lower. Investment as a whole is expected to remain low for the remainder of 2022.

Recent geo-political tensions as well as the intensification of the climate change crisis, may threaten the stability of future FDI flows to and from the region. These challenges require Asian and Pacific economies to stay vigilant and to strengthen investment facilitation measures in order to prevent the disruption in global supply chains. Several economies in the region have used the pandemic to revisit and revise their FDI strategies and investment laws. All this is a testimony to the region's progress towards a competitive and business-friendly investment climate. However, improving the investment climate is a work in progress. Boosting the quantity and quality of FDI flows could play an important part in helping the Asia and Pacific region build back better and aligning FDI with national aspirations and commitments for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Investment facilitation can play an important role in stimulating FDI flows and is a critical part of the instruments that can be used for the economic recovery. Asian and Pacific economies have already taken positive steps and have actively been working on facilitating investment. The region has both voluntary and legally binding frameworks and instruments on investment facilitation at the national, bilateral and regional levels. For example, the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, which has investment facilitation as one of its four pillars; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Investment Facilitation Action Plan; the provisions on investment facilitation in the RCEP and in many ASEAN free trade agreements; and, importantly, ASEAN's ongoing discussions on a possible ASEAN Investment Facilitation Work Plan. Another important initiative is the ASEAN Investment Website, a gateway for sharing information on investing in the region.

It is important to align these efforts to facilitating sustainable FDI, which can help bolster the Asia and Pacific region's economic resilience, support employment growth and catalyse sustainable social and economic development. Moving towards sustainable FDI will require decisive policy action that ensures FDI is channelled into priority sustainable development sectors. Policy

responses can accelerate long needed transformations in the region by putting in place the right conditions to attract, retain and bolster sustainable FDI.

## **II. The state of play of the WTO IFD Agreement negotiations**

The negotiation of the IFD Agreement have been Member-driven, transparent and open to all WTO Members. The negotiations gather over 110 WTO Members – more than two-thirds of the WTO membership. A majority are developing and LDC Members, who have been actively engaged from the very start of the discussions. Negotiators are aiming to conclude the Agreement text by the end of 2022.<sup>1</sup> In contrast to many investment-related disciplines in Asian and Pacific regional trade and investment agreements, the future IFD Agreement explicitly excludes market access, investment protection and investor-State dispute settlement. It contains not just binding commitments, but also flexible, best-endeavour language.

The future IFD Agreement sets standards for investment facilitation in areas that include: improving the transparency and predictability of investment measures, for example by making available electronically information, laws and regulations relevant to investors, ideally via single information portals; simplifying and speeding up investment authorisation procedures by reducing unnecessary procedural red tape and processing times; strengthening cooperation between governments and investors, and between host and home country governments; and promoting sustainable investment. Additional important provisions include firewall provisions against the adoption of IFD agreement provisions in ISDS proceedings and specific reference to alternative dispute settlement mechanisms.

The IFD Agreement is not only about attracting more, but also better and more sustainable FDI. There have been considerable efforts to strengthen the development dimension of the Agreement draft, for instance by adding reference to sustainable investment in the current draft compared to the first draft, and by including some new provisions that directly contribute to the development of the host country. These provisions include promoting the uptake by foreign direct investors of responsible business conduct practices and helping prevent and fight corruption, and the creation of supplier databases of domestic firms to facilitate linkages between foreign investors and domestic firms.

The core objective of the IFD Agreement is to facilitate greater participation of the developing and LDC Members in global FDI flows. Accordingly, special and differential treatment is a key part of the future Agreement. Its draft contains a well-advanced chapter on special and differential treatment, including technical assistance and capacity-building to developing and LDC Members. The special and differential treatment provisions of the Agreement are modelled on the Trade Facilitation Agreement, which allow developing and LDC Members to implement the Agreement at their own pace and request the technical assistance and capacity building support they need to do so.

Preparatory work on investment facilitation need assessments has started. Members recognise that need assessments are powerful tools to help developing and LDC Members that so request to properly categorise the provisions of the IFD Agreement – and to signal their need for additional time, technical assistance and capacity building support. Work on an investment facilitation 'Need

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<sup>1</sup> Participating Members reflect a wide geographic representation – the majority being developing countries (77), including 20 LDC Members. The current list of participating Members is available [here](#).

Assessment Guide' is ongoing, coordinated by the WTO Secretariat in cooperation with leading international organisations. Linking multilateral investment facilitation reforms to the ability of each Member to implement them will ensure that developing countries and LDCs receive the support they need to reap the benefits of the Agreement.

### **III. The value-added of the IFD Agreement**

The IFD Agreement is an important initiative. It could offer a critical global solution to maintaining the growth momentum in the post pandemic era, where investment opportunities are critical to stabilise supply chains, create jobs, enable sustainable growth, and bring prosperity. Global rules on investment facilitation can complement and strengthen national and regional reform efforts on investment facilitation in the Asia and Pacific region and beyond. The Agreement can help standardise the process and procedures of investment facilitation and make them more transparent, predictable and convenient, strengthen human resources and generate employment to achieve sustainable development goals.

It is important to ensure that the IFD Agreement will not only set the global rules and benchmarks for investment facilitation, but also promote best practices. The identification of investment-facilitation best practices at the global level can strengthen domestic and regional reforms in the Asia and Pacific region. Adopting global rules on investment facilitation in the WTO can act as a force multiplier for national and regional efforts on investment facilitation throughout the Asia and Pacific region. Anchoring domestic investment facilitation reforms in shared international commitments will increase policy stability and predictability, promote domestic reform efforts and send a strong signal to investors, both foreign and domestic.

Many principles and good practices under Asian and Pacific regional instruments and treaties correspond with the provisions that are being negotiated in the IFD Agreement negotiating text. Regional initiatives can be seen as stepping stones to more global initiatives. The IFD framework complements existing investment agreements in the region, and a timely conclusion in 2022 will enhance trust and confidence of the business community by contributing to an open, transparent and predictable investment regime.

### **IV. Priority aspects for the IFD Agreement negotiations**

Regulatory coherence and single window information portals were mentioned by foreign investors in the region as especially important measures under the IFD Agreement. Single-portal, web-based platforms and one-stop service centres could significantly boost the efficiency of the investment environment in host countries. Such services would help to reduce the time and resources needed to open business in host economies. It is essential that these services also be digitalised. Therefore, countries must pay particular attention to developing their digital infrastructure and improving the resources that they provide to investors online.

It was also indicated that recent global trends, including sustainability, digitalisation and decarbonisation, as well as greener economy agendas, should be reflected and strengthened in the IFD Agreement. It was noted that governments are increasingly putting in place responsible business conduct (RBC) indicators and reporting and disclosure requirements that affect FDI. In addition, foreign investors are increasingly promoting sustainability values and consequently choose their local suppliers after taking into consideration RBC factors, including environmental and labour rights considerations. This trend has a growing impact on whether local suppliers can

be integrated into global value chains. This also has an effect on locational decisions by foreign investors, as structural changes in global value chains make this important for foreign investors to be able to source locally. Accordingly, the Agreement should strengthen investment facilitation measures such as the establishment of local supplier databases and the establishment of supplier development programmes, which should both include sustainability dimensions.

The IFD Agreement should also put special emphasis on SMEs, which need to be provided with special investment facilitation measures. SMEs in the region have increasingly been demanding more investment facilitation support, particularly because of their limited resources and capacities.

It is important that governments engage with the private sector to understand its needs and challenges. The IFD Agreement can support consultation and feedback mechanisms between the public and private sectors.

Concluding the IFD Agreement in 2022 would help mobilize resources needed to support investment facilitation measures being promoted by national and regional initiatives.

#### **V. The importance of technical assistance and capacity building**

FDI is essential for developing countries and LDCs to promote sustainable development and economic growth. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the needs of developing and LDC Members are taken into account under the IFD Agreement, particularly in terms of technical assistance and capacity building. The Agreement should ensure that the differences in economic development among the negotiating partners is recognised and that the Agreement includes strong commitments for technical assistance and capacity building for developing and LDC Members.

Many of the measures contained in the IFD Agreement require high technical capacities, which could be especially challenging for some developing and LDC Members. Accordingly, it is important to provide special and differential treatment and the flexibility to self-designate the pace at which Members implement the obligations under the Agreement. It was noted that the implementation of commitments under the Agreement requires more technical assistance and capacity building than was required under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The TFA primarily focuses on trade facilitation measures at the border. The implementation of investment facilitation measures under the IFD Agreement, on the other hand, requires the implementation of measures that touch on the entire life-cycle of FDI projects, and involves multiple ministries, agencies and departments across the government, both at the national and the sub-national levels.

#### **VI. The important role of the Asia and Pacific region in the IFD Agreement negotiations**

Asian and Pacific countries have been pioneers in investment facilitation. Their experience can provide valuable guidance that could further enable a comprehensive IFD Agreement to overcome vulnerability and uncertainties that arise at times of crisis. Although the Agreement would help to build a favourable investment environment, the coherence of existing treaties with the Agreement is a key concern. Accordingly, it is critically important that the Asian and Pacific economies participate in the negotiations and make their voices heard. The voice of the Asia and Pacific region is essential to produce a high-quality Agreement that will serve businesses, communities and countries in the Asia and Pacific region and around the world.

## Annex 1: Programme

### **High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit**

**19 May 2022, 9:00am-11:30am CET, 2pm-4:30pm Bangkok, Thailand (GMT+7)**

This ‘**High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit**’ is co-organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) (formerly German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)), and the World Economic Forum (Forum). The Roundtable is convened in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development project, jointly implemented by ITC and IDOS. It will take place on 19 May 2022, from 9:00am-11:30am CET, 2pm-4:30pm Bangkok, Thailand (GMT+7).

The event will be conducted in English.

To register for the event and receive the meeting-link details, please [register here](#). Please note that, to avoid any difficulties, only participants who register will receive the password to join the on-line roundtable.

This high-level event is meant to offer a platform for a strategic exchange on the negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), launched in September 2020 after over two years of preparatory discussions. The negotiations bring together over 110 WTO Members at all levels of development, aiming to conclude the text negotiations by the end of 2022.<sup>2</sup> Currently, 24 Members from the Asian and Pacific Economies are participating in the negotiations.

High-level policy makers, government officials, private sector representatives, and eminent academic scholars will participate in the Roundtable, to be updated on the negotiations and to raise awareness on their progress and reflect on how countries may make best use of the IFD Agreement to enhance their business climate, attract higher value-added investment and boost economic growth, digital economy innovations and sustainable development. This reflection process also seeks to help participants to ensure that their countries’ international engagement is in line with their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their national reform agendas.

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<sup>2</sup> Participating Members reflect a wide geographic representation – the majority being developing countries (77) including 20 least-developed country (LDC) Members. The current list of participating Members is available [here](#).

This process is particularly important and timely as a working group led by the WTO secretariat and comprised of leading international organisations active in the field is preparing an 'Investment Facilitation Self-Assessment Guide' to help WTO Members self-assess their needs and priorities for the effective implementation of the future IFD Agreement and the technical assistance and capacity building needs associated with implementation. Need assessments are expected to begin in the second half of this year.

The Roundtable will provide a brief background on the focus and progress of the IFD Agreement negotiations and explore the benefits and possible challenges of an IFD Agreement for Asian and Pacific economies. The objective of this Roundtable is to facilitate awareness raising, joint learning and capacity building among participants. The Roundtable will be held under the Chatham House Rule to facilitate open and results-oriented discussions.

## PROGRAMME

**09:00**                      **1<sup>st</sup> Session: Opening session**

*Chair*                        **Rupa Chanda**, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

*Speakers*                **Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP  
**Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)  
**Børge Brende**, President, Forum  
**Dorothy Tembo**, Deputy Executive Director, ITC  
**Guest address: Anabel González**, Deputy Director-General, WTO

**09:25**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> Session: The importance of investment facilitation from national and regional perspectives**

*Chair*                        **Federico Ortino**, Professor of International Economic Law, King's College London

*Speakers*                **Mathias Francke**, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development – *“The state of play of the WTO negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement”*



**Burak Dağlıoğlu**, President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey – *“Which investment facilitation measures are most important”*

**Sushil Bhatta**, CEO, Investment Board, Nepal - *“The importance of investment facilitation for Nepal and the need for capacity building”*

**Ariffin Sulaiman**, Assistant Head of FAST (FDI Action and Support Centre under the BEDB), Brunei Darussalam – *“How important is investment facilitation for Brunei Darussalam? What is needed to strengthen IF in Brunei Darussalam?”*

**Michael Lim**, Executive Director, Crowe Malaysia – *“An investor’s perspective on the importance of investment facilitation”*

*Discussant*

**Pavida Pananond**, Professor, Thammasat University

**10:25**

**Coffee break**

**10:30**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session: How an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement can contribute to sustainable development**

*Chair*

**Matthew Stephenson**, Head of Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

*Speakers*

**Sunghwan Lee**, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva - *“Key areas of action to facilitate sustainable FDI”*

**Manothong Vongxay**, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR - *“Understanding countries’ needs and support requirements to implement investment facilitation measures”*

**Renuka Weerakone**, Director General, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka – *“Which investment facilitation measures are most important”*

**Craig Burchell**, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. – *“An investor’s perspective on the importance of investment facilitation”*

*Discussant*

**Ismail Ersahin**, CEO (a.i.), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

**11:25**

**Concluding remarks**

**Axel Berger**, Deputy Director (interim), IDOS

## **Background materials**

[Fact sheet on the Joint Initiative on IFD \(WTO, November 2021\).](#)

[ITC-IDOS project on Investment Facilitation for Development.](#)

[Axel Berger and Karl P. Sauvant, eds., \*Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers\* \(Geneva: ITC, 2021\).](#)

[Axel Berger, Ali Dadkhah and Zoryana Olekseyuk, “Quantifying investment facilitation at country level: Introducing a new index” \(Bonn: IDOS, 2021\).](#)

[Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, “What can Government do to facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys”, WAIPA and Forum.](#)

[Karl P. Sauvant, “How would a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development encourage sustainable FDI flows, and how could it be further strengthened?”.](#)

[Karl P. Sauvant, “The potential value-added of a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development”, \*Transnational Dispute Management\*, vol. 2 \(2020\).](#)

[Forum, Global Investment Policy and Practice, including workstream on Investment Facilitation.](#)

## **Bios**

### **Axel Berger**

Axel Berger is Deputy Director (interim) at the IDOS. He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. His other areas of research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains, and 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 organizations on trade and investment matters.

### **Sushil Bhatta**

Sushil Bhatta is the CEO of Investment Board Nepal. He is a former member of National Planning Commission and immediate past President of Management Association of Nepal. He has more than 17 years of professional experience in managing infrastructure projects, financial institutions, and development organizations. He was conferred with the “CEO with HR Orientation Award” at the 26th Edition of the Times Ascent World HRD Congress 2018 in India. He holds bachelor’s degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Master’s degree in Business Administration. He is an active member of Nepal Engineers’ Association, Nepal Council of Arbitrators and Far Western Stakeholders Forum.

### **Børge Brende**

Børge Brende is President of the World Economic Forum. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of the Environment for the government of Norway. He was also a member of the Norwegian Parliament for many years, Secretary General for the Norwegian Red Cross and Chairperson of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, Board Member of Equinor, and Member of the Board of the Norwegian School of Economics.

### **Rupa Chanda**

Rupa Chanda is the Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation division at ESCAP. Before joining ESCAP, she was a Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. She has worked as an Economist at the IMF and briefly served as Head, UNESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, New Delhi. She received her PhD in Economics from Columbia University and bachelor's from Harvard University. She has published extensively in the areas of services trade, WTO, regional integration, and migration. She has been a member of national and international expert committees.

### **Burak Dağlıoğlu**

Burak Dağlıoğlu is President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye since February 2020. Prior to that, he held a number of posts within the Office as the Vice President from 2015 to 2020 and Project Director in charge of the Gulf Countries, India, Japan, and USA investment from 2010 to 2015. In November 2020 he was appointed Member of the Board of Türkiye Wealth Funds. Earlier in his career, he worked in consulting industry. He holds a BA in Economics from Boğaziçi University and Global Master in Finance from IE Business University.

### **Mathias Francke**

Mathias Francke is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO and Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development. Previously, he was APEC SOM Chair (2019), and Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Director for Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chief of Cabinet, and senior advisor at the Chilean Vice Minister of Trade. As a Foreign Service officer since 1989, he was posted at the Embassy of Chile in the UK (2014 to 2018), Chile's Permanent Mission to the WTO (2000 to 2005, and as Deputy Head of Mission from 2006 to 2010) and the Trade Office of the Embassy of Chile in the USA (1992 to 1996). He is a lawyer from the Catholic University of Chile.

### **Anabel González**

Anabel González is Deputy Director-General to the World Trade Organization. She is a renowned global expert on trade, investment and economic development with a proven managerial track record in international organisations and the public sector. In government, she served as Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; as Director General for International Trade Negotiations; as Director-General of the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE); and as Special Ambassador and Chief negotiator of the US-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. She also served at the World Bank as a Senior Director, at the WTO as Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division and as Senior Consultant with the IDB.

### **Dato Lim Jock Hoi**

Dato Lim Jock Hoi was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam since 2006. During his tenure, he served as Brunei Darussalam's Senior Official for the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar (SEOM), APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) and the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting). He was a member of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) since 2001, serving as the HLTF-EI Chair in 2017. He was Brunei Darussalam's Chief Negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), as well as for the P4, precursor to the TPP negotiations.

### **Federico Ortino**

Federico Ortino is Professor of International Economic Law at The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. He is a member of the ILA Committee on the Rule of Law and International Investment Law; founding Committee Member (and former co-Treasurer) of the Society of International Economic Law; consultative member of the Investment Treaty Forum; general co-editor of the International Trade and Investment Law Series with Hart Publishing; editorial board member of the Journal of International Economic Law, Journal of International Dispute Settlement and Journal of World Investment and Trade. He has been involved as expert in projects with UNCTAD, ITC, OECD, IISD and Forum. He is a Consultant to Clifford Chance.

### **Kaveh Zahedi**

Kaveh Zahedi is the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He oversees ESCAP's substantive programmes on finance, trade, energy, transport, environment, natural disasters, social development, and statistics all in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also coordinates ESCAP's UN inter agency work. Mr. Zahedi has worked for the United Nations in Kenya, Mexico, Europe and Thailand. He holds a master's degree from the Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA, and a BSc degree in Economics & Geography (1st class) from University College London.

### **Pavida Pananond**

Pavida Pananond is Professor of International Business at Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University. Her research focuses on the international expansion of firms, with specific reference to global value chain positioning and upgrading strategies of emerging market firms. She serves on a number of editorial boards of international peer-reviewed journals and is Honorary Adviser to Asia New Zealand Foundation. In addition to MBA and executive teaching, she also provides briefings to diplomatic missions, chambers of commerce, and multinational companies. Her commentaries have also been published and cited in local and international media, including *Financial Times*, and the *BBC*.

### **Matthew Stephenson**

Matthew Stephenson is Head of Investment Policy and Practice 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.

### **Dorothy Tembo**

Dorothy Tembo has served as Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) since June 2014, as well as ITC's Executive Director ad interim from January to September 2020. Prior to ITC, she served as the Executive Director of the multi-donor funded Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme (EIF) at the WTO. She also served as Chief Trade Negotiator and Director of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia, as Advisor on USAID projects in Zambia, and held various positions in Zambia's National Commission for Development Planning.

### **Manothong Vongxay**

Manothong Vongxay is Vice-Minister, Ministry of Industrial and Commerce, Lao PDR. Previously he acted as Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Director General of the Department of Evaluation, Ministry of Planning and Investment and Director General of the Investment Promotion Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Business Administration from Hohai University, China, a Master of Economics of Development from the Australian National University and a Master of Science in Mathematics and Physics from the Voronez State Teaching Institute, Voronez, Russia.

**Renuka Weerakone**

Renuka Weerakone is an Attorney-at-Law by profession counting over 32 years of experience and commenced her career as an instructing attorney with a leading Law firm in Sri Lanka. Being a licensed Notary Public and Commissioner for Oaths, she also holds a master's degree in Business Administration. She is the current Director General of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. In her career at the BOI spanning 28 years, she has performed her duties as a leading role in several key areas such as Investment Promotion, Investment Appraisal and Project Monitoring and has gained a wealth of experience and broad knowledge on investment facilitation. She has also served as the Director General for Investment at the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka.