

**Invitation: 11th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A
MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

2 March 2022

Dear Madam/Sir,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 11th meeting of the Commentary Group on *“What should governments do to support outward FDI? Helping investors enter new markets”*, that will take place virtually on 2 March 2022 from 9:00am to 10:15am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:15 Central European Time (CET).

As a reminder, the Commentary Group’s mandate is to provide input on the content of a new framework being developed at the WTO to facilitate cross-border investment and increase its development impact, as well as helping inform national, bilateral and regional investment facilitation efforts.

The 11th meeting of the Investment Facilitation Commentary Group will focus on identifying the most important measures that home country governments can adopt to support outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) so that it generates positive home country effects and contributes to sustainable development in home and host economies.

OFDI is substantial, with global flows exceeding \$1 trillion most years over the past decade and OFDI stock reaching more than \$35 trillion – and with continued growth likely after the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This strong growth has been even more impressive among developing and transition economies, whose share of global OFDI has exploded from 8% in 2000 to an astonishing 53% in 2020. This reflects, in particular, the recent growth of middle- and upper-middle-income emerging economies, where capital has become more available and multinational enterprises have accumulated greater capabilities for OFDI.¹

Despite the fast rise of OFDI and its growing importance for developing countries, the measures that home governments can adopt to support OFDI are not well understood, since investment promotion agencies (IPAs) historically have focused on promoting and facilitating inward FDI.

This meeting will therefore seek to ask investors and IPAs what measures are most important and effective when it comes to supporting OFDI, i.e., promoting and facilitating OFDI, especially sustainable FDI. The findings will then be shared through a summary report, which can inform the adoption of home-country measures by governments, regional cooperation on facilitating investments flows, as well as elements of an Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development currently being negotiated at the WTO.

¹ Jan Knoerich, Matthew Stephenson, Heather Taylor-Strauss, *Outward Foreign Direct Investment Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development: Insight Report* (Bangkok and Geneva: UNESCAP and World Economic Forum, 2022), [available here](#).

The discussions will be informed in particular by “[Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers](#)” and “[OFDI Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development](#)”.

Moderator: Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

Panellists:

Jan Knoerich and **Heather Taylor-Strauss**, respectively Senior Lecturer at King’s College London (KCL) and Economic Affairs Officer, Investment and Enterprise Development Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) — “*Mapping potential home country measures to support OFDI*”

Anuj Mathew, Senior Economic Adviser and Head of Investment Promotion and Policy Analysis, Department for International Trade of the United Kingdom — “*Surveying UK investors about important home country measures to support OFDI*”

Krzysztof Senger, Managing Director, Polish Development Bank (BGK) and former Acting CEO, Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH) — “*The experience of a government in providing home-country measures to support OFDI*”

Aditya Ganesh, Senior Vice President, Rane Group, India — “*Sharing the experience of an investor entering new markets, and what support is useful from the home country government*”

Concluding remarks: Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00 am CET on 2 March 2022 and follow the instructions.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

We hope that you will be able to participate and ask that you confirm your participation with Yardenne Kagan (ykagan@intracen.org).

With best regards,

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Background information:

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

WEF, [Global Investment Policy and Practice](#) initiative, including workstream on investment facilitation.

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

Jan Knoerich, Matthew Stephenson, Heather Taylor-Strauss, *Outward Foreign Direct Investment Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development: Highlights* (Bangkok and Geneva: UNESCAP and World Economic Forum, 2022), [available here](#).

Jan Knoerich, Matthew Stephenson, Heather Taylor-Strauss, *OFDI Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development*, October 2021. (Bangkok/London/Geneva: UNESCAP, Kings College London, and World Economic Forum, 2021) [available here](#).

S. Reil, K. Hamdani, L. E. Barreiros, A. Berger, R. C. Huerta, Y. Kagan, K. P. Sauvart, P. Steneri, and Q. Zhao. “What Foreign Investors Want: Findings from an Investor Survey of Investment Facilitation Measures in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Geneva: International Trade Centre, 2022), [available here](#).

Bios:

Jan Knoerich

Jan Knoerich is Senior Lecturer at the School of Global Affairs, King’s College London. His research examines outward FDI (OFDI) from China and emerging economies, focusing on development implications. His work has appeared in leading journals, including the *Journal of World Business*, *Journal of International Management* and *Oxford Development Studies*, and in books. He co-authored the [OFDI Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development](#), and has consulted for the United Nations, the European Union, governments and think-tanks. He holds a PhD in Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

Aditya Ganesh

Aditya Ganesh has a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Ohio State University and Business Administration from INSEAD, France. He joined Rane (Madras) Limited in 2017 as General Manager for Corporate Planning and Strategy, looking after the strategic business planning process for four distinct product groups. Subsequently he became Senior Vice President for Marketing, managing domestic, export and independent after-market sales and business development. Apart from his role at Rane, he is on regional and national committees of the Automotive Components Manufacturers Association, particularly focusing on investment and raising capital at the national level and membership expansion at the regional level.

Anuj Mathew

Anuj Mathew, a global expert in investment promotion, currently leads evidence-based advice and strategy formulation in foreign investment for the UK. Notably, he is the analytical architect for UK’s impact based FDI promotion strategy launched in 2018. He also has experience setting direction for long-term policy reforms for improving competitiveness and business environment for attracting high-quality foreign investments both nationally and sub-nationally. He has dual Masters- in Economics, and in International Economics, before completing his doctorate from University of Nottingham, UK in international trade and FDI in the context of environmental regulation and intellectual property rights.

Karl P. Sauvart

Karl P. Sauvart 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.

Krzysztof Senger

Krzysztof Senger is currently Managing Director at the Polish Development Bank and a member of the Management Board of the Three Seas Initiative Investment Fund. Earlier, he spent four years at the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, including as Acting CEO. He has also held senior positions at PwC and Deloitte's branches in Poland, and was the Head of Investment for Adam Mickiewicz University. He received his PhD in 2008 from The Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan with a specialisation in social and economic policy, and a master's degree in 2012 from The Poznan University of Economics, Department of International Economics with a specialization in International Business.

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.

Heather Taylor-Strauss

Heather Taylor-Strauss is Economic Affairs Officer, Investment and Enterprise Development Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of the UNESCAP. She leads UNESCAP's research and policy advisory work on FDI. She has also worked in the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Macroeconomic Policy division in UNESCAP. Prior to her work at UNESCAP, she worked at the Asian Development Bank and held researcher positions at Goethe University, Trinity College, and the Sadar Patel Institute for Economic and Social Research. At these institutions she led 4 projects and authored several publications on outward FDI. She holds a PhD from Goethe University (Germany).