



Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute



International
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Invitation: 9th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

9 November 2021

Dear Madam/Sir,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 9th meeting of the Commentary Group, to take place virtually on 9 November 2021 from 15:00 to 16:30 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.

The 9th meeting of the Investment Facilitation Commentary Group will aim to identify good practices for stakeholder consultations to facilitate investment.

Stakeholder consultations are essential to understand what investment facilitation measures may be needed and to provide feedback as to whether measures adopted are effective and achieving their intended objectives in practice. What kind of dialogue mechanisms are needed? How often should meetings take place? Who should be consulted? How can suggestions be tracked and monitored over time? These are some of the questions that the meeting will seek to address, with a view to recommending such practices be included in a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development.

The discussions will be informed by "*Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers*", [available here](#).

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

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

Panellists:

Jan von Herff, Senior Manager, Trade and Industrial Policy, BASF Germany – "*Investor recommendations on stakeholder consultations – insights from a manufacturing company*"

Raoul Ruparel, Director of Trade and Investment, Deloitte – "*Investor recommendations on stakeholder consultations – insights from a professional services firm*"

Elizabeth Schaefer, Director, Investment Research, Select USA — *“Good practices for consultations with stakeholders to facilitate FDI – lessons from the USA”*

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) – *“Good practices for consultations with stakeholders to facilitate FDI – the perspective of civil society”*

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

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00 am CET on 9 November 2021 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](#)

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

World Economic Forum, Launching an Alliance to Enable Action on Sustainable Investment (EASI), June 2021, [available here](#).

Bios:

Sharan Burrow

Sharan Burrow is General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Prior to her current position, she held the position of ITUC President since its Founding Congress in Vienna (2006) and the position of ICFTU President since its 18th World Congress (2004). She is the first woman to have held any of these positions. She studied teaching at the University of New South Wales (NSW) in 1976. She became an organiser for the NSW Teachers’ Federation, based in Bathurst, and was President of the Bathurst Trades and Labour Council during the 1980s. She was elected Senior Vice-President of the NSW Teachers’ Federation and became President of the Australian Education Union (AEU) in 1992.

Jan von Herff

Jan von Herff is the Senior Manager on Trade and Industry Policy, Communications and Government for the BASF Group, where previously he has worked as Regional Manager for Asia-Pacific (2005 - 2009), and as Product Manager Intermediates (2002 - 2005). He is responsible for issues of trade and economic policy. In this role he has worked intensively for the company among other things in expert hearings and information sessions on the TTIP and he is also the Co-Chair of the trade working-group at the Transatlantic Business Council (TABC, www.transatlanticbusiness.org). He graduated from the University of Mannheim, where he studied economic and social history, politics, and philosophy.

Raoul Ruparel

Raoul Ruparel is Director of Trade and Investment at Deloitte. He works in the Global Brexit Insights team advising the company across a range of business lines on topics ranging from Brexit to trade policy, economic policy and the wider political landscape in the UK and the EU. He helps businesses understand what the UK's exit from the EU means for them and how they can best mitigate any impact and take advantage of opportunities. His previous roles include Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Europe and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. He holds two masters' degrees from the University of Chicago in economics and public policy and an undergraduate degree from the University of Manchester.

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.

Elizabeth Schaefer

Elizabeth Schaefer is the Director of the Investment Research Team at SelectUSA. She leads data, evaluation, and analytical work relating to foreign direct investment promotion in the United States. Her team publishes original FDI research reports, develops and maintains dynamic data visualizations, conducts program monitoring and evaluation activities, and authors bespoke products for potential investors considering investment in the United States. She has an M.A. in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Maryland.

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.