



INVITATION: 3 July 2020, 4th VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMENTARY GROUP ON A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Dear Colleague,

We would like to invite you to participate in the 4th meeting of the Commentary Group, to take place virtually on 3 July 2020, from 8:00am to 9:30am Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), 14:00 to 15:30 Central European Time (CET), 20:00 to 21:30 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 for facilitating cross-border investment and for increasing the development impact of such investment.

As background documents, please find the following attached:

- a) The updated *Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI*.
- b) Summaries of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, which will also be shared with WTO negotiators.
- c) A summary of the Informal Consolidated Text of the WTO Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development

The 4th meeting will focus on concrete investment facilitation measures that should be included in the WTO framework. During the meeting, each organization will have up to 3 minutes to suggest three concrete investment facilitation measures, *ideally measures that have not already been included in the inventory attached to this invitation*, that he/she thinks are particularly important to facilitate the flow of FDI and especially sustainable FDI. (It is also fine to suggest measures from the *Inventory*.) We would also appreciate participants

providing a brief explanation of why each suggested facilitation measure would be particularly helpful for facilitating FDI flows.

The goal is to develop additional (preferably tested) facilitation measures that we can recommend to WTO negotiators. It would be especially desirable if we could discuss measures that facilitate sustainable FDI flows, as well as measures that can be particularly helpful for restarting FDI in light of the steep decline of flows expected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

Opening speaker: María Laura Sluga, General Coordinator of the Foreign Affairs Department, Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services

Discussion starters:

Kaye Brathwaite, Chief Executive Officer, Invest Barbados

Azzan Al Busaidi, Chief Executive Officer, Ithraa, Oman

Henry Loewendahl, Group CEO of WAVTEQ and Senior Vice President representing fDi Intelligence, Financial Times

Hazem Mulhim, Chief Executive Officer, EastNets

Philippe Yvergniaux, Director, International Cooperation, Business France

Panelists: All participants.

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

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 14:00 am CET on 3 July 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, please do not hesitate to contact Mohamad Fakhreddin (mfakhreddin@intracen.org). For general questions, please contact Yardenne Kagan (ykagan@intracen.org)

With best regards,

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cc Rajesh Aggarwal (ITC), Axel Berger (DIE), Sean Doherty (WEF), Mohamad Fakhreddin (ITC), Yardenne Kagan (ITC), Quan Zhao (ITC)

Speakers bios:

Kaye-Anne Brathwaite, Chief Executive Officer, Invest Barbados

Ms Kaye-Anne Brathwaite holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Accounting, as well as a Master of Science in Business and Financial Economics. An Economist by training, she worked as a Senior Economist in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs until 2007. Desirous of learning all aspects of Business and Finance, she then entered the world of banking and credit. During her twelve-year stint in banking, the former executive banker managed an extensive portfolio, providing financial and investment solutions to players in a wide range of industries. In September 2019, Kaye assumed the role of CEO of Invest Barbados. Kaye has a love for teaching and this aspect of her life began in 1995. She is currently a certified online lecturer/ facilitator with the Cave Hill School of Business, University of the West Indies. She believes that knowledge should be shared and the greatest satisfaction one can have, is knowing that the knowledge imparted has charted the course of success for the recipient.

Azzan Al Busaidi, Chief Executive Officer, Ithraa, Oman

Mr Azzan bin Qassim Al Busaidi, is CEO of Ithraa – Oman’s investment promotion and export development agency. Mr Al Busaidi holds a degree in Economics from Sultan Qaboos University and an MBA from the University of Strathclyde. He is also a graduate of the Oxford University National Leadership & Competitiveness Program. Prior to his appointment as Ithraa’s CEO, he worked for two years as part of the Implementation Support & Follow-up Unit (ISFU) in the Diwan of Royal Court as ISFU’s Head of Business Environment & Finance Program. In this role, he was responsible for supporting and following-up on public sector initiatives designed to enhance Oman’s investment environment. Over the past ten years, Mr. Al Busaidi has represented Oman at numerous high-level events, presenting on the sultanate’s investment and export offer to international dignitaries and global business leaders.

Henry Loewendahl, Group CEO of WAVTEQ and Senior Vice President representing fDi Intelligence, Financial Times

Mr Henry Loewendahl was previously Product Director in the Financial Times, Managing Director of Investment Products in OCO Global, Manager of Inward Investment in IBM, and Senior Consultant in PwC. Henry has 20 years of FDI experience working with over 120 economic development organisations and multinationals in over 60 countries. Henry has a PhD on FDI and is a pioneer in expanding our knowledge of FDI, competitiveness, and investment promotion. He is the inventor of fDi Markets, fDi Benchmark, IncentivesMonitor, FDI Professionals, & FDI Accounting and has over 50 publications and presentations on FDI and investment promotion. Over 1,000

economic development organisations and multinationals have subscribed to WAVTEQ developed products and Henry has managed projects delivering over \$10 billion of FDI.

Hazem Mulhim, Chief Executive Officer, EastNets

Mr Hazem Mulhim's background is multi-layered, established through a career spanning 35 years in international markets. After his graduation from Bulgaria with a Master's degree in Electronics Engineering and Medical Electronics, Mr Mulhim began his professional career working at Siemens in Kuwait in 1980, where he experienced first-hand how computing was starting to transform the health industry. As the digital revolution was just starting worldwide in the early 1980s, he took a decision to get closer to the epicentre of innovation, moving to the US to work. There, he would accentuate his entrepreneurial vision and develop a deeper insight into the emerging technologies and markets. Later in 1984, he moved to Jordan to establish what now is EastNets. In 2007, EastNets acquired SIDE International, a leader in AML solutions based in Belgium. This expansion strategy worked and soon EastNets was serving a 750-strong client base. Mulhim's acute vision and industry insight would help EastNets secure multiple prestigious international awards and in one recent case achieving leadership in one global compliance industry vertical. Mulhim had also continued his academic drive, earning a Certificate of Advanced Management Program (AMP) from the prestigious Institute of INSEAD, France, and an OWP from IMD Lausanne, Switzerland.

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

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), stepping down as its Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work, as a CCSI Resident Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.

María Laura Sluga, General Coordinator of the Foreign Affairs Department, Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services

As Foreign Affairs General Coordinator at one of the main business associations in Argentina, Ms María Laura Sluga represents Argentinian business views in strategic international fora and engage with relevant stakeholders – including intergovernmental organizations, governments, academia, media and civil society – in relation to business key priorities. She holds a dual degree in International Relations and Political Science, a Master degree in International Economy and Politics, and an MBA from IE Business School.

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

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. This initiative works in several emerging markets to identify measures that facilitate investment and maximise its development impact. Previously he led the workstream on outward FDI at the IFC, worked on Africa and on investment at the OECD, and led the economic team on Afghanistan and economic programmes in the Middle East at the U.S. Department of State. He is a member of the T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment, has a PhD from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, a master's from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's from Oxford University.

Philippe Yvergniaux, Director, International Cooperation, Business France

Mr Philippe Yvergniaux has 27 years' experience in FDI attraction, as international director then general manager of French regional IPAs from 1993 to 2005, then country director at Invest in France Agency for the British Isles (2005-2009) and North America (2009-2015); in January 2015 he was appointed Director of International Cooperation at Business France. In this role, he is charged with leading efforts to develop partnerships with, and provide technical assistance to, trade and investment promotion agencies throughout the world. Prior to 1992, Philippe worked as a civil engineer on rural development projects in Africa, Indonesia, and Haiti. He is married with 4 children and 4 grandchildren.