



**Webinar invitation: What should home countries do to facilitate sustainable outward FDI?
10 March 2022**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC), the German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), and the World Economic Forum (WEF), we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

What should home countries do to facilitate sustainable outward FDI?

The webinar will take place on 10 March 2022, from 15:00 to 16:00 Geneva time (Central European Time), 09:00 to 10:00 Eastern Standard Time.

The webinar is being held in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development [project](#), jointly implemented by the ITC and DIE.

This is the 10th webinar in a series meant to assist investment promotion agencies and policymakers strengthen their capacity to facilitate higher FDI flows, especially investment flows that directly contribute to development; it will also provide an opportunity to exchange experiences regarding investment facilitation, including with investors.

The 10th webinar will focus on identifying the most important measures that home country governments can adopt to support outward foreign direct investment (OFDI).

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 (Knoerich et al., 2021). 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 (Ibid.).

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 IPAs historically have focused on promoting and facilitating inward FDI.

This webinar will therefore seek to ask investors and IPAs what measures are most important and effective when it comes to facilitating OFDI, especially sustainable FDI. The findings will then be shared through a summary report, which can inform individual governments, regional efforts and the negotiations of a WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD Agreement).

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

Please feel free to share this invitation with officials dealing with FDI, as well as representatives of the private sector who might be interested in this subject.

The webinar will be conducted in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants.

Participation in the webinar is free of charge. However, it is necessary to register for the event (please [click here](#)), to receive the meeting link details.

The webinar will feature the following speakers:

Opening remarks: Rajesh Aggarwal, Director (oic), Division for Market Development, ITC

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

Experts and practitioners:

Heather Taylor-Strauss, 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 facilitate sustainable OFDI*”

Michael Lim, Jr., Managing Director, Growth Consulting, Crowe Malaysia — “*The importance of home country measures for firms seeking to expand into new markets*”

Joel Richards, Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva — “*Why the WTO IFD agreement should include home country measures and which ones*”

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

The webinar will be delivered through Zoom.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the webinar!

Best regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, ITC; Axel Berger, DIE; Ismail Ersahin, WAIPA; Karl P. Sauvant, Columbia University/CCSI; Matthew Stephenson, WEF

Background material

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, “Do developing countries benefit from outward FDI?,” *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, No. 234, September 10, 2018, [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](#).

Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, “What can governments do to facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys” (WAIPA and World Economic Forum, December 2019), [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](#).

Karl P. Sauvart, “A new challenge for emerging markets: the need to develop an outward FDI policy”, *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, No. 203, July 3, 2017, [available here](#).

Matthew Stephenson, “The OFDI policy path and the product space,” *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, No. 311, August 9, 2021, [available here](#).

Matthew Stephenson and Jose Ramon Perea, “How to leverage outward FDI for development? A six-step guide for policymakers,” *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, No. 242, December 31, 2018, [available here](#).

Bios:

Rajesh Aggarwal

Rajesh Aggarwal is Director (oic), Division for Market Development, 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 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.

Michael Lim, Jr.

Michael Lim is the Managing Director for Crowe Growth Consulting, a division covering regional markets focused on assisting companies to catalyse growth through improving performance, innovating itself or accelerating business expansion. He is the youngest to have graduated at the age of 17, cumma-sum-laude from University of Queensland, under the faculty of Business & Economics School, in the field of Accounting and Finance with scientific research in the field of Artificial Intelligence. His working experiences include working with top notch research company, world-class consulting firm and well-known global accounting firms before he was head-hunted to be a Global Associate Director and head the first ever turnaround consulting division globally.

Joel Richards

Joel Richards is an international trade policy and private sector development professional with over 12 years of advising senior government officials and business executives within the Caribbean Community bloc on issues relating to trade and competitiveness. He is currently a senior advisor to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission's Diplomatic Mission in

Geneva where he represents OECS member states at the World Trade Organization and other relevant international bodies.

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.

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).