



International
Trade
Centre



Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

Invitation: 5th virtual meeting of the Expert Network on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development, 16 February 2021, 15:00-16:15 CET

Dear Expert Network members,

Thank you very much again for your willingness to participate in the Expert Network on Investment Facilitation for Development, established in the framework of a project carried out by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

The 5th meeting of the Expert Network will take place on **16 February 2021**, from 9:00am to 10:15am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:15 Central European Time (CET), and 21:00 to 22:15 China Standard Time (CST).

The meeting will focus on **the potential value added of an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development**. More specifically, we would like to discuss the following questions:

- Can an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development help developing countries implement and lock-in domestic reforms?
- Should such a Framework require transparency of home country measures and encourage the observance of investors' CSR commitments?
- To what extent can an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development establish benchmarks of good investment facilitation practices and help members to share experiences?
- What is the relationship between a multilateral Investment Facilitation Framework for Development and emerging bilateral negotiations involving investment facilitation provisions (EU-China CAI, RCEP, EU-ESA EPA, etc.)?

The discussion will be held under Chatham House Rule to enable a frank and open exchange. The main results of the discussion will be summarized in a short report which will be fed into the WTO process on investment facilitation.

Moderator: Axel Berger, Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

Opening speakers:

Manjiao Chi, Professor and Founding Director, Center for International Economic Law and Policy, Law School, University of International Business and Economics, China

Makane Moïse Mbengue, Professor and Director, Department of Public International Law and International Organization, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

Laage Poulsen, Associate Professor and Director, Graduate Studies, School of Public Policy, University College London

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

To join the meeting, kindly, click on the link below shortly before 15:00pm CET on 16 February 2021 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 would like to request the floor to speak or send written questions or comments during the meeting, please feel free to type your question or request in the chat window by pressing on the chat icon in the middle-bottom pane of the Zoom window.

For your reference, the reports of the last Expert Network meetings can be found [here](#).

Thank you in advance for participating in the Expert Network and sharing your expert insights.

With best regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE

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

Bios

Axel Berger

Axel Berger is a Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. Other areas of current research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, the impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains and the 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 organisations on trade and investment matters.

Manjiao Chi

Manjiao Chi is currently Professor and Founding Director at the Center for International Economic Law and Policy (CIELP), Law School, University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), China. He is also founding editor-in-chief of the Asian Yearbook of International Economic Law. His recent research focus includes international economic law, dispute settlement and sustainable development. He frequently advises international organizations, government bodies as well as private firms on legal and policy issues of his research fields.

Makane Moïse Mbengue

Makane Moïse Mbengue is Professor and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. He is also an Affiliated Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law). Mr. Mbengue is the President of the African Society of International Law. He was the Lead Expert for the negotiations and drafting of the Pan-African Investment Code (PAIC) in the context of the African Union. He is involved in several investment negotiations across Africa. Mr. Mbengue acts as counsel in disputes before international courts and tribunals (in particular the International Court of Justice) and as arbitrator and expert in investment arbitration proceedings.

Lauge Poulsen

Lauge Poulsen is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the School of Public Policy, University College London. Poulsen's first book, *Bounded Rationality and Economic Diplomacy: The Politics of Investment Treaties in Developing Countries* (Cambridge Press), won the International Studies Association's inaugural award for best book in International Political Economy. His second book, *The Political Economy of the Investment Treaty Regime*, was published in 2017 (Oxford Press; with Bonnitcha and Waibel). Poulsen has advised governments and private organisations on investment policies and given expert testimonies to parliamentary committees in the UK and abroad.

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