

Webinar invitation: How would WTO Members benefit from an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement?

3:00-4:00pm CET, 8 November 2022

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

How would WTO Members benefit from an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement?

8 November 2022, 3:00-4:00pm Central European Time (CET)

This is the 13th of a webinar series on investment facilitation for development, held in the framework of a joint ITC/IDOS project on Investment Facilitation for Development. The reports of all previous events are available on the project's [website](#).

Like all ITC/IDOS events, 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 long-term objective of strengthening investment facilitation is to foster sustainable development. An Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, currently under negotiation in the World Trade Organization (WTO), seeks to support this objective. The webinar will discuss, from different stakeholder-perspectives, the various benefits of an Agreement. It will report about research simulating the economic impact of an Agreement, showing that WTO Members participating in it, and low-income countries in particular, will potentially benefit from it. By streamlining domestic procedures to enhance transparency, efficiency and predictability, as well as promoting coordination and dialogue, participating Members can enjoy economic benefits resulting, among other things, from a reduction in transaction costs. The webinar will highlight the crucial importance of support mechanisms to help implement the Agreement in developing countries.

As usual, the results of the discussion will be communicated to the negotiators of the IFD Agreement.

The webinar will have the following agenda and speakers:

Opening remarks

Rajesh Aggarwal, Director (oic), Division of Market Development, ITC

Moderator

Axel Berger, Deputy Director (interim), German Institute of Development and Sustainability, IDOS.

Speakers

- **Jung Sung Park**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO of the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea in Geneva and Co-coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development — *“The status of the WTO investment facilitation negotiations”*.

- **Karl P. Sauvant**, Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI — **“Reasons to join the IFD Agreement”**
- **Zoryana Olekseyuk**, Senior Researcher, IDOS — **“Assessing the economic benefits of an IFD Agreement”**
- **Michael Lim**, Managing Director, Growth Consulting, Crowe Malaysia — **“The business perspective: how an IFD Agreement helps in foreign investors’ locational decision making”**

Concluding remarks

Federico Ortino, Professor of International Economic Law, King’s College London

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link that will be sent to you shortly before **3:00 pm CET on 8 November** and follow the instructions.

We look forward to welcoming you to the webinar!

With kind regards,

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

Axel Berger, Deputy Director (interim), IDOS

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

Background materials

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

Edward J. Balistreri & Zoryana Olekseyuk, 2021. [“Economic impacts of investment facilitation”](#), Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) Publications 21-wp615, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) at Iowa State University.

Axel Berger, Yardenne Kagan and Karl P. Sauvant, eds., [Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers](#) (Geneva: ITC, 2022), second edition.

Karl P. Sauvant and Federico Ortino, [“The WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement needs a strong provision on responsible business conduct”](#), *Columbia FDI Perspective*, no. 335 (11 July 2022).

Karl P. Sauvant, [“How would a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development encourage sustainable FDI flows, and how could it be further strengthened?”](#), in Kabir Duggal, Gustavo Vaughn, Elora Farias, Mateo Verdías, and Gino Rivas, *What Does It Mean to be “Pro Arbitration”? Reflections on George Bermann’s Legacy by Columbia Law School Community* (forthcoming 2022).

Karl P. Sauvant and Evan Gabor, [“Facilitating sustainable FDI for sustainable development in a WTO Investment Facilitation Framework: Four concrete proposals”](#), *Journal of World Trade*, vol. 55 (2021), pp. 261-286.

Karl P. Sauvant, [“The potential value-added of a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development”](#), *Transnational Dispute Management*, 2 (2020).

Bios:

Rajesh Aggarwal

Rajesh Aggarwal is Officer in Charge, Director, Division for Market Development, ITC, Geneva. He is leading a programme of assisting the private sector in developing countries to be the change agent for trade policy reforms and engage in business advocacy with their governments in the design and implementation of trade policies and negotiating positions that reflect business interests. Before joining the ITC, he worked for the Indian Government and participated in the 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.

Axel Berger

Axel Berger is Deputy Director (interim) at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability. He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. His other areas of research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains, and 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 organizations on trade and investment matters.

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.

Zoryana Olekseyuk

Zoryana Olekseyuk is a Senior Researcher at DIE. Her work focuses on economic integration/disintegration, trade, FDI, and investment facilitation, mainly with respect to developing and emerging economies. Being an experienced computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeler, she developed many innovative CGE models, e.g., incorporating data from heterogeneous firms and FDI in services. She has contributed to many international research projects and acts as a consultant for the World Bank. Her research is published in such journals as World Economy, Empirica, Review of Development Economics, Economic Modeling, and the Journal of International Trade and Economic Development

Federico Ortino

Federico Ortino is Professor of International Economic Law at The Dickson Poon School of Law, King’s College London. He is a member of the ILA Committee on the Rule of Law and

International Investment Law; founding Committee Member (and former co-Treasurer) of the Society of International Economic Law; consultative member of the Investment Treaty Forum; general co-editor of the International Trade and Investment Law Series with Hart Publishing; editorial board member of the Journal of International Economic Law, Journal of International Dispute Settlement and Journal of World Investment and Trade. He has been involved as expert in projects with UNCTAD, ITC, OECD, IISD, and WEF. He is a consultant to Clifford Chance.

Jung Sung Park

Jung Sung Park is the Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO of the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea in Geneva since February 2022. His previous positions include Director-General for policy coordination in industry, energy, trade, science ITC, and SMEs under the Prime Minister; Director for trade policy, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy; Director for trade industry, Office of the President; and Economic Counsellor of the Korean Embassy in Malaysia. He also participated in various bilateral FTA negotiations and led Invest Korea. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from Seoul National University and a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University. He is a member of N.Y. Bar, and N.J. Bar.

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 IDOS 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 Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.