



## Webinar invitation

### **“Investment facilitation: transparency and streamlining of administrative procedures”**

**17 March 2021**

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:

#### **“Practical issues regarding transparency and streamlining of administrative procedures”**

The webinar will take place on **17 March 2021, from 14:00 to 15:00 Geneva time** (Central European Time), 09:00 to 10:00 Eastern Standard Time, and 21:00 to 22:00 China Standard Time.

*Please note that due to change in daylight savings time, the meeting will start at 14:00 CET rather than at 15:00 CET as originally indicated.*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar in a series meant to assist investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and policymakers strengthen their capacity to facilitate higher FDI flows, especially investment flows that directly contribute as much as possible to development; it will also provide the opportunity to exchange experiences regarding investment facilitation, including with investors.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar will focus on practical issues regarding **transparency and streamlining of administrative procedures, including movement of personnel and digital tools** that can assist with addressing such issues. The discussions will be informed by [“An Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI: What? Why? How?”](#).

**You are warmly invited to share the invite with officials or firms who might be interested.**

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

The webinar will feature the following speakers:

**Opening: Quan Zhao**, Trade Policy Advisor, Division for Market Development, ITC

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

**Experts and practitioners:**

- **Douglas Van Den Berghe**, CEO NxtZones & FDI 4.0
- **Dushyant Thakor**, Vice President, Invest India
- **Juliana Gómez**, Director for Foreign Direct Investment, ProColombia
- **Marc Burrows**, Global Head of Mobility Services, KPMG
- **Markus Thill**, President, Africa, Robert Bosch

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

To register for the event and receive the meeting-link details, please [register here](#).

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, Karl P. Sauvant, Columbia University/CCSI; Bostjan Skalar, WAIPA; Matthew Stephenson, WEF

**Background material**

Karl P. Sauvant, Matthew Stephenson, Khalil Hamdani, and Yardenne Kagan, “*An Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI: What? Why? How?*” (Geneva and Bonn: International Trade Centre and German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik), [available here](#).

**Bios:**

**Marc Burrows**

Marc Burrows is Head of Global Mobility Services, KPMG International and Partner KPMG in the UK. He started his career in Global Mobility Services for KPMG in Australia followed by 8 years with KPMG in Switzerland. He relocated to London to lead the UK Global Mobility Services practice in 2011 before becoming the Head of Global Mobility Services in 2016. He has spent his

career working with clients to address the challenges of increasingly mobile employee populations. He advises companies and senior individuals across a range of issues from business traveler risk, incentive compensation management, global mobility policy and cross border taxation. He is a member of KPMG's Global Tax and Legal Management Team.

### **Juliana Gómez**

Juliana Gómez has been Director for Foreign Direct Investment at ProColombia since 2010. ProColombia is the government agency responsible for the commercial promotion of Colombia as direct foreign investment destination, foreign tourism and as a vendor of non-traditional goods and services. Over 400 projects with estimated investments of US\$7 billion have been supported by ProColombia between 2009 and 2020. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Eafit in Medellin, and then went on to receive a master's degree from the same university. Her career has long been linked to ProColombia, where she began to work in 2004 as an Exports Specialist to help Colombian SMEs become international players.

### **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 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.

### **Dushyant Thakor**

Dushyant Thakor is Vice President of Invest India, the country's national investment promotion agency, with which he has been involved since its inception. At Invest India he currently leads the following initiatives: (a) States division; (b) Investment Clearance Cell (National Single Window System) (c) North East Initiatives; (d) Partnerships; (e) Projects in sustainability space. He is also a mentor for the National Land Bank initiative. With a total of 23 years of experience, Dushyant has previously worked with an apex chamber of commerce (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), and international standards organization (GS1) and IT companies.

## **Markus Thill**

Markus Thill is President of Africa for Robert Bosch since 2014, reporting directly to Bosch Group management. Prior to co-founding Bosch's global venture arm as managing director in 2007, he worked as Vice President of Bosch's global corporate strategy department. Before joining Bosch, he was a senior manager in leading strategy consulting firms, heading and implementing projects on strategic and operational issues as well as M&As around the globe. He holds university degrees in mathematics and physics, including a doctorate (“summa cum laude”) from Université de Paris (France). He is fluent in English, German and French, and has a good working knowledge of several other languages.

## **Douglas Van Den Berghe**

Douglas van den Berghe is a global speaker and expert on FDI, SEZs, corporate international strategy and innovation. He was the founder and CEO of a FDI advisory firm and a JV technology company both which were acquired over the past couple of years. He previously held positions at UNCTAD and EY. As a management consultant, he has assisted many corporate clients in successfully implementing their global investment strategies, optimizing their global supply chains and has created more than 30,000 jobs and generated more than US\$ 0,5 billion in FDI across the world. He has been an advisor to many governments in successfully developing FDI policies for economic development increasing the competitiveness of countries.

## **Quan Zhao**

Quan Zhao is trade policy advisor in the Division of Market Development, International Trade Centre (ITC). He leads ITC's trade in services projects which cover policy research and technical assistance in services trade, e-commerce, digital economy and cross-border investment. Prior to ITC, he served as a trade negotiator at Permanent Mission of China to the World Trade Organization and Ministry of Commerce of China. He served as the Chair of WTO's Committee on Trade in Financial Services, and services negotiator in China's FTA negotiations.