
ITC WEBINAR SERIES

MAKING TRADE AGREEMENTS WORK FOR MSMEs AND DEVELOPMENT

Webinar 1. The WTO Investment Facilitation Framework for Development and the Importance of Facilitating Sustainable Investment for MSMEs

Friday, 28 May 2021, 15:00 to 17:00 (Geneva time)

One impact of the global health and economic crisis associated with COVID-19 has been the sharp 42% drop in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2020, compared to 2019. As the world emerges from the pandemic, revitalizing investment will be key to restarting the engine of the global economy.

The Investment Facilitation for Development initiative at the World Trade Organization (WTO) aims to create a multilateral framework for a more transparent, efficient and investment-friendly business climate that serves development. A successful outcome can inject confidence into the global economy and revitalize FDI flows. Enhancing cooperation and transparency, streamlining procedures, improving regulations, and encouraging investment that directly contributes to development are important principles to take into account.

This webinar on “The WTO Investment Facilitation Framework for Development and the Importance of Facilitating Sustainable Investment for MSMEs” will provide an overview on the WTO negotiations on an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development, including the benefits and challenges of a WTO outcome on investment facilitation. In addition, the webinar will reflect on the main issues related to facilitating inward FDI, zooming in especially on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and development dimensions. It is meant to facilitate joint learning and knowledge sharing, as well as to bring MSMEs and development perspectives to the attention of policymakers.

The webinar will explore answers to the following questions:

- What measures are most effective for facilitating and encouraging sustainable FDI in the context of the global health and economic crises and the need to relaunch national economies?
- What are the benefits and challenges for a WTO outcome on investment facilitation for development?
- What can we learn from the negotiation and implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, especially in terms of its flexible implementation periods and capacity-building elements?

This session is part of the ITC webinar series, taking place between 28 May and 10 June 2021. It is intended for policymakers and others interested in emerging topics in the multilateral trade discussions to address new challenges and opportunities in the post-pandemic world. For more information, please visit: <https://www.intracen.org/itc-webinar-series/>

The webinar will be delivered through Zoom. To register for the event and receive the webinar link, please [register here](#).

Programme

14:50 – 15:00	Log-in by participants
15:00 – 15:10	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, ITC
15:10 – 16:00	Session 1. The benefits and challenges of a WTO outcome on Investment Facilitation for Development Chair: Rajesh Aggarwal , Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felipe Henriquez, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO <i>Progress and next steps for the negotiations on the WTO Investment Facilitation Framework for Development</i> • Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI <i>What we have learned from the ITC-DIE investment facilitation for development project?</i> • Yewande Sadiku, Executive Secretary/CEO, National Investment Promotion Commission, Nigeria <i>What do IPAs expect from the WTO Investment Facilitation Framework for Development?</i> • Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead, International Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum <i>Promoting sustainable investment through measures directly contributing to development</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Q&A</p>
16:00 – 16:05	COFFEE BREAK
16:05 – 16:55	Session 2. MSMEs, the development dimension and the role of technical assistance Chair: Karl P. Sauvant , Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment, Columbia University Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute <i>A gap analysis of developing countries' capacities to facilitate sustainable investment</i> • Alice Nikuze, Investment Marketing Analyst, Rwanda Development Board <i>Implementing investment facilitation agreements: key challenges</i> • Roslyn Ng'eno, Senior Investment Expert, African Union Commission <i>Key elements of a technical assistance and capacity building programme to strengthen the implementation of investment facilitation measures</i> • Mohammad Saeed, Senior Trade Facilitation Officer, ITC <i>Learning from the experience of implementing technical assistance in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement</i> <p style="text-align: center;">Q&A</p>
16:55 – 17:00	Concluding remarks Rajesh Aggarwal , Chief, Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

Background materials

Edward J. Balistreri and Zoryana Olekseyuk, “Economic Impacts of Investment Facilitation” (Iowa State University, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, 2021), [available here](#).

Axel Berger and Karl P. Sauvant, eds., *Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers* (Geneva: ITC, 2021), [available here](#).

Even Gabor, “Keeping ‘Development’ in a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development”, *Journal of World Investment & Trade*, vol. 22 (issue 1) (2021), pp. 41–91, [available here](#).

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., [available here](#)

Bios

Rajesh Aggarwal

Rajesh Aggarwal is Chief of the Trade Facilitation & Policy for Business Section of the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva. He is leading a programme 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 designing and implementing 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 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.

Felipe Henríquez

Felipe Henríquez is a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO, in charge of trade in services, investment, e-commerce, trade and environment, and government procurement. He has professional experience as negotiator and head of negotiating teams of free trade agreements (chapters on investment, services, temporary entry of business persons, telecommunications, and e-commerce), participant in plurilateral and multilateral fora (TPP, Pacific Alliance, WTO, OECD, APEC, UNASUR) and negotiator of air services agreements and mutual recognition agreements.

Roslyn Ng'eno

Roslyn Ng'eno is the Senior Investment Expert to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Negotiating Support Unit of the African Union Commission. She is in charge of supporting the negotiations and development of the Investment Protocol for the AfCFTA, by providing strategic guidance to the member states. Working for intergovernmental organizations as well as government, she has provided technical assistance in drafting and revising continental and regional investment treaties. She has been involved in the development of national and regional investment policies, advocating for and supporting delivery of initiatives aimed at enhancing private sector led economic growth and competitiveness through targeted investment climate reforms.

Alice Nikuze

Alice Nikuze has been an investment marketing analyst at the Rwanda Development Board since July 2011. She has expertise in planning and evaluating financial and investment information, based on intensive academic training in economics and business management and more than 10 years of work experience in economic planning and investment marketing. Prior to her current role, she served as the planning and monitoring officer in the Ministry of Health for over 4 years, and she was responsible for leading planning and monitoring activities. She holds both a degree in Economics and a Master's in Business Administration. She is also certified under the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants-UK. She is a Rwandan and resides in Kigali.

Yewande Sadiku

Yewande Sadiku has been Executive Secretary/CEO of Nigeria's Investment Promotion Commission, Nigeria's foremost investment promotion agency, since November 2016. Until October 2016, she was the Executive Director responsible for Stanbic IBTC Group's Corporate and Investment Banking business. She has an interest in bringing formal financing to the Nigerian film industry and raised funding for *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2014), a full feature film. She was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship for International Leadership in May 2010 and was one of "35 International Women Under 35" featured in the October 2007 edition of *World Business Magazine*.

Mohammad Saeed

Mohammad Saeed is Senior Adviser on Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business with ITC, where he leads its trade facilitation team. His work focuses on assisting beneficiary countries to promote trade through improving the competitiveness of the private businesses. He has provided advisory services to 50 plus developing countries for their trade policy reforms. Before joining this assignment, he served as Senior Technical Adviser on trade and transport facilitation with UNCTAD. He has extensive experience in handling the complex issues of international trade law. He served on six Dispute Panels of the WTO, including four as Chair. He worked as trade negotiator of Pakistan and played a leading role in designing and developing the market access and trade facilitation negotiating strategy for Pakistan in the WTO Doha Round Negotiations.

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>). He currently assists, as Senior International Advisor, 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 programmes in the Middle East. Since 2017 he has been 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.

Dorothy Tembo

Dorothy Tembo has served as Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) since June 2014, as well as ITC's Executive Director *ad interim* from January to September 2020. Prior to ITC, she served as the Executive Director of the multi-donor funded Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme (EIF) at the WTO. She also served as Chief Trade Negotiator and Director of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia, as Advisor on USAID projects in Zambia, and held various positions in Zambia's National Commission for Development Planning.