

Facilitating Investment for Sustainable Development

26 September 2017, 17:00 – 18:30 – Room S1, WTO Public Forum, Geneva

SESSION ABSTRACT

Private investment is crucial for achieving the SDGs. Developing countries, in particular, need to be able to better identify and facilitate the kind of investment that will contribute to their sustainable development. This session will look at practical examples of investment facilitation for sustainable development, as well as the broader mechanisms through which it can be achieved. It will focus on potential tools to measure the quality as opposed to the quantity of investment.

DESCRIPTION

Investment policy has attracted negative public attention in recent years, particularly in the context of free trade negotiations and investment arbitration. The reality is, however, that private investment is crucial to realising the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, for which it is estimated an additional funding of \$2.5 trillion is needed on an annual basis, an amount that simply cannot be delivered by ODA alone.

With a 14% decline in FDI flows to developing countries in 2016, there is a need to consider re-orienting toward the use of investment policies and frameworks that facilitate the flow of sustainable investments that are not only commercially viable, but also make a contribution to the economic, social and environmental development of host countries. By doing so, investment policy could function coherently with trade policy, by strengthening the linkages with domestic actors to improve their capacity to participate in more and better GVCs.

The session examines practical examples of sustainable investment facilitation, as well as the broader frameworks and mechanisms through which this can be achieved. The following questions will be addressed:

- How can sustainable investment be identified and encouraged? What role can sustainability criteria play?
- What best practices for sustainable investment facilitation from developing country and private sector experience?
- What mechanisms are needed to help facilitate the flow of sustainable investment?

This session will draw on think pieces written for a series of Investment Policy Dialogues organised by the World Economic Forum and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development with support from the Government of the Netherlands. This includes "Towards an indicative list of FDI sustainability characteristics" by Karl P. Sauvant and Howard Mann.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Moderator

Marten VAN DEN BERG, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands

Speakers

Ana NOVIK, Head of Investment Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Howard MANN, Associate and Senior International Law Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (via videolink)

Bostjan SKALAR, Chief Executive Officer, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

Elizabeth TUERK, Chief, International Investment Agreements Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD

Ambassador Chiedu OSAKWE, Director General and Chief Negotiator, Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN)

Ulf PEHRSSON*, Vice President, Government and Industry Relations, Ericsson