



Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute



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Report on the 1st virtual meeting of the Commentary Group on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development 26 February 2020

The 1st virtual meeting of the Commentary Group on a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development took place between 10:00 to 12:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Karl P. Sauvant (Columbia University/CCSI) and Mr. Matthew Stephenson (WEF). Nineteen members of the Commentary Group participated, along with six staff providing support through an informal secretariat. The list of both participating Members and the staff can be found in Annex 1.

Two background documents had been prepared specifically for the meeting. They were circulated in advance, and should be considered part of the record of the 1st meeting: “An Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI: What? Why? How?” and a summary of the framework being considered in the WTO Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development (Streamlined Text).

The meeting started with opening remarks by Mr. Sauvant, in which he explained that the Commentary Group’s mandate was to elucidate the importance of investment facilitation measures in the context of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development at the WTO. As such, members of the Group were invited throughout the meeting to identify measures from the draft framework (Streamlined Text) that they found to be most important. They were also invited to identify measures that had not yet been included in the draft framework, drawing from the Inventory and their experience.

After the introduction, Mr. Khalil Hamdani presented the Inventory of investment facilitation measures. Following Mr. Hamdani’s presentation, participants discussed the most important measures related to investment facilitation in light of their respective experiences. Most participants indicated that measures related to streamlining and speeding up of administrative procedures (Section III in the Inventory) are a priority. Moreover, many identified transparency, domestic coherence and cross-border cooperation as important categories of measures.

Participants also suggested measures that could be added to the Inventory, many of which were related to issues of domestic policy coherence and the consideration of different categories of foreign direct investment.

The list of the new measures suggested by participants can be found in summary form below.

List of additional measures discussed

1. Coordination of national and sub-national regulations and their implementation
2. Access by foreign investors to local industry associations and access to a consultative process (public-private dialogue) to provide feedback on proposed new rules
3. Consideration of specificities regarding three categories of investment:
 - a. Investments focused on mining and infrastructure
 - b. Investments targeting Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and other SEZs
 - c. Investments serving the local market
4. A mechanism to follow up, through monitoring and evaluation, on whether incentives had had the desired results (e.g. had the investment created jobs as expected?)
5. Aftercare services
6. Measures to facilitate collaboration between public and private agencies that provide facilitation services
7. A code of conduct for IPAs when providing services
8. A digital one-stop shop
9. Composition of an eventual WTO Committee on investment facilitation, namely the importance of private sector participation
10. Red carpet service for investments, which could have a significant positive impact in the economy (similar to the Recognized Sustainable Investor)
11. Investment guides
12. Measures encouraging IPA-to-IPA partnerships
14. Facilitation of visa for business entry, such as through green channels
15. Supporting linkages between foreign firms and domestic firms, such as through a database, lists and supplier development programmes
16. List of bankable projects to facilitate investment
17. Information on outward FDI procedures and support measures
18. 'Silent Yes' for administrative approvals
19. National Investment Committees (similar to National Trade Facilitation Committees)

Several participants, including representatives from Colombia and Nigeria, shared the experiences of their countries in implementing investment facilitation measures.

Most of the newly suggested measures were subsequently integrated in the draft inventory, which, in turn, was further discussed during the virtual workshop “*Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI*” on 11 March 2020.

The 2nd Virtual Meeting of the Commentary Group will take place on 7 April 2020.

Annex 1. List of members who participated in the 1st meeting and informal secretariat

Name	Country	Organization
Mohammed Baba	Nigeria	Investor Relations Department, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission
Craig Burchell	China	Vice President Global Trade Affairs, Huawei Technologies
Raul Moreno Castro	Spain	Chief of Staff, Spanish Development Finance Institution (COFIDES)
Juan Carlos Gonzalez	Colombia	Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the WTO, former head of ProColombia
Sabine Dall'Omo	Germany	President for Africa, Siemens Industries
Maria Fernanda Sánchez	Colombia	Manager, Latin American Investment in Colombia, ProColombia
Vincenzo Franza	Italy	Group Strategy, Enel
Hilina Getachew	Ethiopia	Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, Ethiopian Investment Commission
Dennis Hahm	Republic of Korea	Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA)
Khalil Hamdani	Pakistan	Visiting Professor, Lahore School of Economics
Alejandro Jara	Chile	International Trade Lawyer, former Deputy Director General, WTO
Maria Laura Sluga	Argentina	General Coordinator of the International Affairs Department, Argentinian Chamber of Commerce
Benjamin Mgbemere	Nigeria	Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission
Fred Marchiori	Brazil	Global Head of Institutional Relations, Oxiteno
Christoph Sprich	Germany	BDI- Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V.
Douglas van den Berghe	Global	Vice President, Advisory, Conway Inc.
Hannah Welgacz	Brazil	Market Manager for Europe, APEX Brazil
Lou Wells	United States	Emeritus Professor, Harvard Business School
Wang Wen	China	Deputy Director, Department of International Relations, China Investment Promotion Agency
Informal Secretariat		
Rajesh Aggarwal	Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC	
Axel Berger	Senior Researcher, DIE	
Mohamad Fakhreddin	International Consultant, ITC	
Matthew Stephenson	Policy and Community Lead, International Trade & Investment, WEF	
Karl Sauvant	Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI	
Quan Zhao	Trade Policy Advisor, ITC	

Annex. II The invitation and agenda for the meeting



Dear Madam or Sir,

We would like to thank you again for accepting to participate as experts in the Commentary Group on a Multilateral Framework 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) together with the World Economic Forum.

The first virtual meeting will take place **on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 from 10:00am to 12:00pm (noon) Eastern Standard Time (EST)**. Its aim is to inform negotiations on a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The meeting will be structured around two questions:

1. Which measures currently being considered are most important?
2. What measures are currently missing from the draft framework and might be usefully added?

To inform this discussion, you will receive two documents:

1. A summary of measures currently being considered. This document will be circulated on Monday, 24 February.
2. An inventory of measures, which includes both current measures and potential new measures (potential new measures are mentioned in the "implementation" column). This document is attached; it may help you in reference to the second discussion point, but you are certainly not limited to the ones mentioned there.

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below at 10:00am on February 26 and follow the instructions.

Join Skype Meeting

If you are not automatically joined in the meeting after clicking the link, click on "Join Using Skype for Business Web App instead". After that, download and install the Skype Meetings App plug-in and click on "Join the meeting".

If you would like to also send written questions or comments during the webinar, please feel free to type them in the chat window in the bottom-left corner of the Skype window.

Thank you in advance for participating in the Commentary Group and sharing your expert insights.

With best regards,

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