



## **Webinar save the date: What should home countries do to facilitate sustainable outward FDI?**

**10 March 2022**

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:

### **What should home countries do to facilitate sustainable outward FDI?**

The webinar will take place on 10 March 2022, from 15:00 to 16:00 Geneva time (Central European Time), 09:00 to 10:00 Eastern Standard Time.

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 10<sup>th</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 to development; it will also provide an opportunity to exchange experiences regarding investment facilitation, including with investors.

The 10<sup>th</sup> webinar will focus on identifying the most important measures that home country governments can adopt to support outward foreign direct investment (OFDI).

OFDI is substantial, with global flows exceeding \$1 trillion most years over the past decade and OFDI stock reaching more than \$35 trillion – and with continued growth likely after the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. This strong growth has been even more impressive among developing and transition economies, whose share of global OFDI has exploded from 8% in 2000 to an astonishing 53% in 2020. This reflects, in particular, the recent growth of middle- and upper-middle-income emerging economies, where capital has become more available and multinational enterprises have accumulated greater capabilities for OFDI.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the fast rise of OFDI and its growing importance for developing countries, the measures that home governments can adopt to support OFDI are not well understood, since IPAs historically have focused on promoting and facilitating inward FDI.

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<sup>1</sup> Jan Knoerich, Matthew Stephenson, Heather Taylor-Strauss, *Outward Foreign Direct Investment Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development: Insight Report* (Bangkok and Geneva: UNESCAP and World Economic Forum, 2022), [available here](#).

This webinar will therefore seek to ask investors and IPAs what measures are most important and effective when it comes to facilitating OFDI, especially sustainable FDI. The findings will then be shared through a summary report, which can inform individual governments, regional efforts, and the negotiations of a WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development.

The discussions will be informed in particular by “[\*Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers\*](#)” and “[\*OFDI Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development\*](#)”.

**Please feel free to share this invitation with officials dealing with FDI, as well as representatives of the private sector who might be interested in this subject.**

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

**Participation in the webinar is free of charge. However, it is necessary to register for the event. Please contact us at [info@waipa.org](mailto:info@waipa.org) to receive the meeting link details.**

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; Ismail Ersahin, WAIPA; Karl P. Sauvant, Columbia University/CCSI; Matthew Stephenson, WEF