



UNIDO-WAIPA Report

21 February 2024
14:30 - 16:00 (CET)
Zoom

Findings from the
UNIDO-WAIPA Survey
of ACP Investment
Promotion Agencies



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



World Association of
Investment Promotion
Agencies



European Union



Organisation of African,
Caribbean, and Pacific States

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Introduction

Background

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has long been recognized as a key driver of economic growth, prosperity, and competitiveness across countries. Particularly in the Global South, FDI has been viewed as a critical element in promoting sustainable development, given its potential to foster economic advancement. Despite this, FDI inflows have been unevenly distributed, with African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries still struggling to attract FDI. Hence, there is great potential to enhance investment facilitation and promotion efforts, spearheaded by national and sub-national investment promotion agencies (IPAs), thereby accelerating FDI in ACP countries.

To support ACP IPAs in this undertaking and contribute towards a better understanding of their characteristics, emerging strategies and technical assistance needs, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and its partner, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), conducted a first-of-its-kind joint survey, covering 61 IPAs in total in the ACP region. The empirical insights of this survey were compiled in a comprehensive publication on investment promotion and facilitation in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region that was launched during WAIPA's 27th World Investment Conference that took place in December 2023 in New Delhi, India.

Objective

The purpose of the webinar is to present the survey results as well as the insights emanating from its analysis to a broader audience. More specifically, through the webinar the audience will be given an overview of the state-of-play, challenges, and opportunities of investment promotion and facilitation in ACP countries. Further, a model explaining the realities and complexities faced by ACP IPAs in their work will be showcased emphasising steps IPAs can take to advance their investment readiness, in addition to key recommendations and practical (digital) tools to enhance their effectiveness and align their efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Equally important will be to understand and discuss the nexus of the Report's findings with the recently concluded negotiations of WTO's Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement.

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A total of 35 member countries (50%) of the Organization of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) are supporting the IFD. This has concrete implications for IPAs for playing a more visible role in improving the transparency and predictability of investment measures, simplifying and speeding up investment-related procedures, expanding dialogue between governments and investors and taking part in continued capacity building activities.

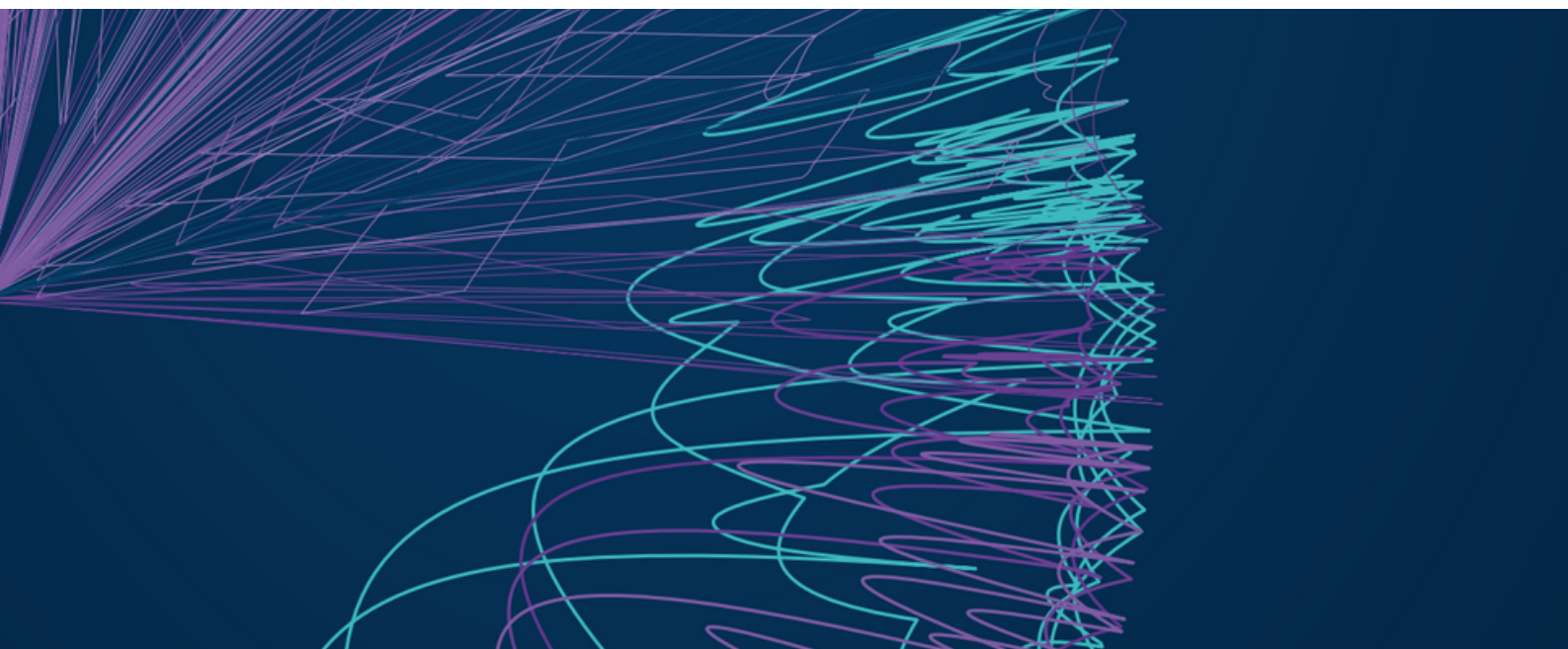
The webinar is part of the “ACP Business-friendly: Supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion and alliances”-project, which is funded by the European Union and OACPS. Through this project, UNIDO has provided extensive capacity building and investment promotion support in the ACP region.

Target Audience:

This webinar is aimed at professionals in the field of investment promotion and facilitation, especially practitioners working for Investment Promotion Agencies and Institutions in the ACP region and beyond.

The webinar will be delivered in English and there will be no translation service.

The training will be offered free-of-charge to the participants.



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Indicative Timetable

21 February 2024, 14:30 - 16:00 (CET), via Zoom	
14:30-14:35	Opening Remarks Mr. Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)
14:35-14:40	Opening Remarks Ms. Virpi Stucki, Chief, Division of Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade (IET/PST)
14:40-14:55	Setting the Scene: Presentation of the UNIDO WAIPA Survey on ACP IPAs and its Main Findings Ms. Annika Bachhofer, Project Associate, Sustainability Standards and Responsible Business Unit, Department of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, UNIDO
14:55-15:10	Framework to Understand FDI in ACP Countries Ms. Carolina Arriagada Peters, Senior Investment Researcher, UNIDO, and Managing Director of Cities & Collaboration
15:10-15:20	Key Recommendations and UNIDO's Solutions for improved Investment Promotion and Facilitation Mr. Stefan Kratzsch, Team Lead, Sustainability Standards and Responsible Business Unit, Department of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, UNIDO
15:20-15:35	Evaluating the Report's recommendation in light of the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement Mr. Karl Sauvart, Resident Senior Fellow at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)
15:35-15:55	Q&A
15:55-16:00	Closing remarks by WAIPA and UNIDO



Registration

Venue | Contacts

Where

Virtually, via Zoom



[Register here](#)

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