
WAIPA
World Association of
Investment Promotion
Agencies
WAIPA
World
Investment
Conference
30th WAIPA
WORLD INVESTMENT
CONFERENCE (WIC 2026)
10-12 NOVEMBER 2026
CICG, GENEVA
in collaboration with
GENEVA
CONVENTION BUREAU
KDIPA
KUWAIT DIRECT INVESTMENT PROMOTION AUTHORITY
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WAIPA World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GLOBAL PARTNERS

World Investment Conference

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ICC

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

International Labour Organization

International Trade Centre

OECD BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

UN trade & development

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UN Tourism

WORLD BANK GROUP

GLOBAL PARTNERS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

EIF Enhanced Integrated Framework Trade for LDC development

AfCFTA

WORLD FREE ZONES ORGANIZATION

OXFORD BUSINESS GROUP

CCIG GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND SERVICES

IsDB البنك الإسلامي للتنمية Islamic Development Bank

قمة AIM للاستثمار AIM CONGRESS

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30th WAIPA World Investment Conference

Promoting Investment for Shared Prosperity: Resilient and Sustainable

10–12 November 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland

The global investment landscape is being reshaped by converging challenges and opportunities. Geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, technological disruption, supply chain reconfiguration, and tighter financing conditions are altering how investors allocate capital and how countries compete for it. At the same time, transitions in energy, AI and digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, health, food systems, and services are creating new avenues for investment-led growth. In this context, investment promotion is becoming more strategic: the objective is not only to attract more investment, but to attract investment that is resilient, productive, inclusive, and sustainable.

The World Investment Conference (WIC), WAIPA's flagship annual event, has served since 1996 as the leading global platform for dialogue on international investment. Bringing together key stakeholders of the global investment community—including senior policymakers, business executives, IPA heads, and international organizations—the Conference provides a unique forum to assess global investment trends, share practical experience, build partnerships, and advance investment for development. With WAIPA's membership spanning over 110 countries, the Conference reflects the diversity and universality of the global investment promotion community.

The 30th edition of WIC returns to Geneva, the birthplace of WAIPA and the seat of its Permanent Secretariat, marking three decades of connecting capital with opportunity. Under the theme "Promoting Investment for Shared Prosperity: Resilient and Sustainable," WIC 2026 is expected to attract 6,000–8,000 participants (broadly in line with attendance at recent editions) and feature more than 100 sessions and engagements across seven pillars: Leaders Vision, Development Strategies, Sectoral Resilience, Partner-led Competitiveness, Partner-led Sustainability, Executive Focus, and Business Engagement. Together, these sessions will address the major issues shaping investment today and tomorrow—from industrial policy and sustainable finance to digital infrastructure, supply chain resilience, responsible business conduct, and domestic value creation.

WIC 2026 aims to deliver practical outcomes for the global investment promotion community: stronger partnerships, sharper policy and institutional tools, more effective business engagement, and a renewed agenda for mobilizing investment in support of shared prosperity. At a time of uncertainty and transition, the Conference will provide a platform to align global vision with practical action.

30th WAIPA WORLD INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

"Promoting Investment for Shared Prosperity: Resilient and Sustainable"

| 10-12 November 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland |

DAY 1: Tuesday 10 November 2026 (1/2)

TIME	High-Level Strategic Issues	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
08:30 – 10:00	***Registration & Coffee***					
10:00 – 11:00	Grand Opening Welcome addresses, keynotes, setting the conference agenda.					
11:00 – 12:00	Global Leaders Platform I: Harnessing Capital for good Heads of state and global CEOs examine how investment can drive growth in a new era. • Where will capital go next? • How to restore confidence?					
12:00 – 13:00	Global Leaders Platform II: The New Investment-Development Compact Public and private leaders debate a new balance between competitiveness, resilience, and responsibility. • What should governments facilitate? • What should investors deliver?					
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break (Day 1)					
14:00 – 16:00	Ministerial Roundtable: The Next Decade of Global Investment: A forward-looking dialogue on how to set investment strategy and promotion over the next ten years. • What will matter most? • What must change now?					

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DAY 1: Tuesday 10 November 2026 (2/2)

TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
15:50 – 16:00	Coffee Break (Day 1, 15:50)					
16:00 – 16:50	**Openness and Economic Security** Investment screening and strategic-sector rules are now part of the policy landscape in many economies, raising the question of how to keep attracting investment while addressing security concerns. • How can screening stay predictable and transparent? • How do investors plan around it?	**Advanced Manufacturing 2.0** Manufacturing FDI is being reshaped by automation, resilience, and localisation pressures. • What do firms want now? • How to attract advanced manufacturing activities?	**World Bank: Critical Minerals, Bigger Value** Resource-rich economies seek more value through processing and downstream industry. Mining investors have the challenge of setting processing facilities in those countries. • Where do host and investor interests meet on value addition? • What partnerships work best?	**ITC: Investing in Inclusive Value Chains** Investment at the service of sustainable and inclusive value chains and SME Competitiveness. • How can FDI lift local SMEs rather than displace them? • What makes supplier linkages sustainable?	**The New IPA Toolkits** A practical session on data tools, AI tools, and investor intelligence platforms. • What tools add value? • How to use new tools effectively?	**IPA–MNE Matchmaking (1)** Investment agencies and multinational firms meet for targeted pipeline-building. • Where is investor interest? • What support is needed?
16:50 – 17:00	Coffee Break (Day 1, 16:50)					
17:00 – 17:50	**Investment and Geopolitics** This panel looks at how trade friction, and security concerns shape investment choices. • What risks dominate decisions? • How are firms adapting?	**Food Security as Investment** Agriculture and food processing are rising as strategic sectors for resilience and growth. • Where are the investable gaps? • How are risks reduced?	**UNCTAD: Regional investment agreements and Investment Facilitation** Regional IIAs can support investment facilitation while improving coherence across fragmented investment frameworks • How can IIAs strengthen investment facilitation? • How can they reduce fragmentation?	**UNECE & WAPPP: Infrastructure Through PPPs** This session looks at how to structure partnerships to build lasting Infrastructure • What makes PPPs credible? • What improves execution?	**WAIPA Steering Committee** (Members only)	**Investor Deal Rooms** Curated meetings connect project sponsors, investors, and public counterparts around live opportunities. • Which projects are ready? • Who can move first?
19:00 – 21:00	**WAIPA IPA Awards, and WEF-WAIPA Impact Investors Awards** **30th Anniversary Reception**					

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DAY 2: Wednesday 11 November 2026 (1/3)

TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
08:00 – 09:00			**World Economic Forum: Leadership Breakfast (invite-only)** "Highlighting Successful FDI" An interactive, leadership discussion on how to ensure great FDI speaks for itself. • What are examples of great FDI? • How can the FDI story be told?"			
09:00 – 09:50	**Rethinking Investment Incentives** Countries are reassessing tax and non-tax incentives as fiscal pressures and international tax reform reshape investment value propositions. • What should be reformed? • How should IPAs adapt?	**Investing in Sports for a Healthier Future** **European Football Clubs Foundation**: investment in sports can deliver commercial returns and societal impact. • What models combine sporting, societal and commercial success? • How public and private actors can converge around sports?	**Fortune: Fortune 500 Europe insights** Sharing with the global investment promotion community some of the key findings and takeaways from the list of 2026	**WFZO: Synergy for Investment Promotion** IPAs, SEZs, and TPOs often operate in silos. Breaking these barriers can unlock an efficient, and mutually reinforcing trade and investment promotion ecosystem. How to deepen collaboration? What institutional model works?	**OCO: Aftercare First** Retention and reinvestment are often the quickest route to stronger investment performance. • Why do firms stay? • Why do they expand elsewhere?	**Project Preparation Clinics** Sponsors receive expert advice on how to make priority projects more investable. • What weakens bankability? • What must be fixed now?
09:50 – 10:00	Coffee Break (Day 2, 9:50)					
10:00 – 10:50	**Industrial Policy Goes Global** Subsidy races and strategic sectors are redrawing global investment landscape. • Which policies attract capital? • Which create distortion?	**Services as Growth Engines** Producer services such as ICT and finance are essential for productive investment. • Which services unlock growth? • Where are the biggest gaps?	**McKinsey: Investment - Measure of competitiveness** Investment trends highlight widening competitiveness gaps between Europe, the US, and China • what is the investor perspective on these divergent geographies? • how to strengthen investment cases and rebalance disparities?	**UNECE: Circular Systems, New Returns** Circular business models, transparent value chains, food systems transformation and waste valorisation generate new investable pipelines across multiple sectors. • Which circular economy investments can deliver sustainability and returns? • What policies, standards and partnerships help scale impact?	**World Bank: Investor Targeting with Precision** This session focuses on how IPAs can identify and pursue the right firms more effectively. • Who should be targeted? • What data matters most?	**IPA–MNE Matchmaking (2)** Investment agencies and multinational firms meet for targeted pipeline-building. • Where is investor interest? • What support is needed?
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee Break (Day 2, 10:50)					

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DAY 2: Wednesday 11 November 2026 (2/3)

TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
11:00 – 11:50	**Consortium of Think Tanks** The Consortium will collectively shape the future Investment Policymaking Agenda in the new era of global economy. • What are the key emerging issues? • How to address them?	**Health as an Investment Frontier** Healthcare, biotech, and health infrastructure are emerging as strategic investment opportunities. • Where is demand strongest? • What makes projects credible?	**World Bank & ITC: Investment Facilitation in Practice** Investment facilitation commitments can be translated into domestic reform, leading to more trade and investment. • What capacity is missing? • What can be done?	**ILO: Investment and Decent Work** Labour standards and job quality are increasingly tied to investment quality and legitimacy. • What do responsible investors expect? • How can IPAs respond?	**Export-Led Investment** Export-oriented FDI remains one of the fastest ways to diversify and upgrade economies. • Which sectors travel well? • How do IPAs and TPOs align	**Frontier Market Investor Desk** A structured platform for early conversations on fragile and frontier market opportunities. • What risk is manageable? • What capital is available?
11:50 – 12:00	Coffee Break (Day 2, 11:50)					
12:00 – 12:50	**Investment in the VUCA Era** Investors are rethinking when, where, and how much to commit in a volatile environment. • Why are firms staging projects? • How should hosts respond?	**Energy Transition, Real Deals** Clean energy investment depends on credible projects, strong policy, and bankable structures. • What makes projects investable? • What slows financial close	**IsDB: Regional Blocs, Shared Strategies** Regional economic groupings can coordinate investment promotion, harmonise facilitation to global investors. • What coordination models deliver better results? • How to harness regional FDI?	**Chatham House: Green Industrial Strategies and Investment** As economies pursue green industrial strategies, challenge is to align efforts to attract investment and strengthen trade, rather than compete in isolation. • How can economies align green industrial strategies? • What opportunities for investment and trade partnerships?	**Sector Pitch Masterclass** A practical workshop on building concise and convincing sector value propositions. • What belongs in a pitch? • What should be cut?	**ITech Infrastructure Investor Hub** Developers, energy providers, and digital investors meet around AI and data infrastructure. • What assets are required? • Which markets are prepared?
12:50- 14:00	Lunch Break (Day 2)					
14:00 – 14:50	**Diplomacy and Investment Promotion** Dialogue between ambassadors and IPA Executives. Diplomatic missions and investment promotion agencies are natural partners. Coordination between them remains challenging. • How to create synergies between diplomacy and promotion? • How to maximize impact?	**AI, Power and the New Infrastructure Race** The buildout of AI is driving a fresh contest for energy, land, connectivity, and computing capacity. • What do investors need first? • Which locations are ready?	**AfCFTA: From Protocol to Practice** Turning AfCFTA Protocol on Investment into practical outcomes via effective National Focal Points and coordinated investment facilitation. • What makes investment facilitation effective? • How can NFPs and IPAs collaborate?	**World Bank: From Quantity to Quality** Governments, and agencies are shifting focus from how much FDI is attracted to what it delivers for productivity, innovation, skills, and the green transition. • What defines high-quality FDI? • How is real impact measured?	**Grievance Response** Investor grievances require speed, clarity, and institutional authority to avoid escalation. • What resolves issues fast? • What damages trust?	**Talent Without Borders** Visa regimes, work permit systems, and talent mobility are often the binding constraint on technology, R&D, and professional services investment. • What mobility barriers cost countries investment? • Which reforms move fastest

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DAY 2: Wednesday 11 November 2026 (3/3)

TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
14:50 – 15:00	Coffee Break (Day 2, 14:50)					
15:00 – 15:50	**Supply Chains Redesign** Firms are redesigning production networks for resilience and efficiency. • What shifts are durable? • Who gains from them?	**Cities as International Production Bases** Cities and metropolitan regions are becoming primary locations for industrial clusters and globally connected production networks. Their competitiveness increasingly depends on the strength of local ecosystems to attract FDI. How to build stronger ecosystems? What success cases show?	**McKinsey: FDI reshaping industry and trade** Investment increasingly flows along geopolitical lines and into future-shaping industries, configuring trade networks. • What do the investment patterns reveal? • How do they change global trade?	**ILO: Invest in Skills and Talents** Investment promotion is shifting from counting jobs to improving job quality and skills, and long-term technology readiness. • What metrics matter now? • How are skills and talent pipelines built?	**UNIDO: ACP Business-Friendly Programme-Lessons & way forward** Experiences from ACP countries show targeted investment facilitation and promotion can strengthen business environments and attract investment. Recommendations for IPAs • What actions delivered the greatest impact? • What lessons can inform future initiatives?	**Agribusiness Investment Exchange** Investors and project sponsors connect around food systems, processing, and rural value chains. • Where are scalable deals? • How are risks reduced?
15:50 – 16:00	Coffee Break (Day 2, 15:50)					
16:00 – 16:50	**Invest in SDG** This session looks at how to attract capital into sectors with high development returns. • What makes projects bankable? • How is impact shown?	**Harnessing AI, Attracting Capital** AI regulatory frameworks, safety standards, and liability rules are becoming a new layer of investment location competition. • Which governance models attract AI investment? • How to harness AI for transforming business?	**UNIDO: Industrial Upgrading Through FDI** This session looks at how FDI can deepen productive capabilities and supplier ecosystems. • How is upgrading accelerated? • What support is needed?	**IISD: Water, Land and Investment Risk** Natural resource pressures are becoming material risks in project design and investor screening. • What must be assessed early? • How are trade-offs managed?	**WAIPA Institutional Events (16:00 – 18:30)** **• General Assembly (Membership only)**	
18:30 onwards	**Networking Reception**					

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DAY 3: Thursday 12 November 2026 (1/3)

TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
09:00 – 09:50	**Winning High-Value Investment** Leaders assess how countries can attract high-value investment in an era of industrial policy. • What signals seriousness? • What turns investors away?	**Creative Capital** Film, gaming, design, music, and digital content industries are attracting growing FDI through production incentives, IP frameworks, and creative zones. • What locations are winning creative investment? • How is value retained locally?	**ITC: Export Competitiveness by Design** Investment and trade promotion can work together to build stronger export platforms. • What coordination works best? • Which sectors are ready?	**OACPS & IsDB: South-South Investment** Outward FDI from emerging economies is growing faster than traditional FDI, following different logics and structures. • What drives South-South investment decisions? • How to promote and facilitate South-South FDI?	**Building IPA Resilience** IPAs need stronger governance, talent, and funding models to manage volatility. • What capabilities are essential? • What weakens resilience?	**Advanced Manufacturing Connect** Manufacturing investors meet locations offering skills, logistics, and ecosystem depth. • What capabilities stand out? • What are investors missing?
09:50 – 10:00	Coffee Break (Day 3, 09:50)					
10:00 – 10:50	**Non-Equity Modes, New Entry Points** Licensing, franchising, and contract manufacturing can open new pathways into global production systems. • What value can countries capture? • How do firms upgrade?	**Logistics as Location Advantage** Port capacity, warehousing, cold chain, and freight connectivity are increasingly decisive in FDI decisions. • What logistics gaps cost countries investment? • Which upgrades move needle?	**UIP, Innovation and Investment** Intellectual property frameworks can shape the credibility of knowledge-based investment ecosystems. • What gives investors confidence? • How is value protected?	**UN WTO: Tourism with Long-Term Value** Tourism investment can be more resilient and inclusive when governance is strong. • What makes tourism sustainable? • How are local benefits secured?	**Data for Decision-Making** Better data can improve targeting, aftercare, and policy advocacy inside IPAs. • What should be tracked? • How is insight turned into action?	**B2B Matchmaking Session** Structured business-to-business matchmaking.
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee Break (Day 3, 10:50)					
11:00 – 11:50	**Regional Value Chains, Regional Growth** Regional integration is changing how countries position themselves in production networks. • What roles are most viable? • How can neighbours collaborate?	**Longevity and Silver Economies** Ageing populations are creating new investment opportunities in eldercare, health technology, assisted living, and pension-linked services. • What investment opportunities are emerging? • What regulatory frameworks enable scale?	**UNCTAD: Impact of geopolitics on investment promotion-facilitation** Investment promotion agencies (IPAs) are dealing with uncertainties created by the geopolitical dynamics. • What is the main impact on investment promotion and facilitation? • What are IPAs' best practice?	**WFZO: The Future of Free Zones** Free zones are evolving from enclaves into platforms for logistics, services, and green industry. • What models are winning? • What needs reform?	**UNCTAD: Reading FDI Better** A data-focused session on how policymakers and executives should interpret FDI trends and distortions. • What do headlines miss? • What should IPAs track?	**SEZ and Cluster Marketplace** Zone authorities and cluster managers present ready-made platforms for industry and services. • What makes zones competitive? • How are linkages built?

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DAY 3: Thursday 12 November 2026 (2/3)

TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
11:50 – 12:00	Coffee Break (Day 3, 11:50)					
12:00 – 12:50	**Sovereign Capital, Strategic Choices** Sovereign wealth funds are deploying $12 trillion across borders, reshaping how countries compete for patient, large-scale capital. • What do sovereign investors prioritise? • How should IPAs engage them differently?	**Digital Readiness for Investors** Digital infrastructure and regulatory readiness are becoming critical factors in investment attraction. • What readiness matters most? • How can gaps be closed? s supported?	**De-risking That Works** A practical discussion on guarantees, blended finance, and project preparation tools. • Which instruments mobilise capital? • Where do gaps remain?	**ITC: Gender, Inclusion and Investment** How can investment better support women, youth, and excluded groups. • What outcomes are realistic? • How should inclusion be tracked?	**Selling the Location** Investment marketing now requires sharper stories, better proof points, and stronger segmentation. • What messages work best? • What weakens credibility?	**IPA–MNE Matchmaking (4)** Investment agencies and multinational firms meet for targeted pipeline-building. • Where is investor interest? • What support is needed?
12:50-14:00	Lunch Break (Day 3)					
14:00 – 14:50	**Technology Diffusion Beyond Borders** The development impact of FDI depends on whether technologies transfer to local firms, institutions, and workers, not just whether they arrive. • What accelerates diffusion? • What keeps technology locked inside foreign firms?	**Blue Economy, Deep Value** Marine resources, sustainable fisheries, ocean energy, port infrastructure, and maritime logistics represent a growing but underdeveloped investment frontier. • What makes ocean projects bankable? • How are environmental safeguards built in?	**Investment and Innovation Ecosystems** Investment in start-ups, tech hubs, and R&D is becoming a core competitiveness issue. • What makes ecosystems credible? • How are scale-up	**WIDA: Multilateral Roundtable: Joint Investment Endeavour** International organisations discuss how their tools can support a smoother and more coherent investment process. • Where is support fragmented? • How can delivery be joined up?	**Winning Reinvestment Decisions** Reinvestment choices are often made quietly long before projects are announced. • What signals expansion? • What triggers hesitation?	**Urban and Real Estate Investor Exchange** Developers, sovereign funds, and city authorities connect around commercial, mixed-use, and urban regeneration investment opportunities. • Which city projects are ready? • What governance builds investor confidence?
14:50 – 15:00	Coffee Break (Day 3, 14:50)					

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TIME	Development Strategies	Sectoral Resilience	Partner-led Competitiveness	Partner-led Sustainability	Executive Focus	Business Engagement
15:00 – 15:50	**Automation, Demographics and the Investment Trade-Off** The case for automation-led investment looks very different depending on whether a country has an ageing workforce or a young, growing one. • When does automation serve development goals? • When does it foreclose them?	**Investment Diversion and Beyond** Firms are diversifying footprints, but not always in the ways policymakers assume. • What is driving relocation? • What is just hedging?	**Trade and Investment Location Choice** Trade policy is now a core variable in site selection and investor planning. • What moves the shortlist? • What creates hesitation?	**Proving Sustainable Investment** As sustainability claims face growing scrutiny, investors and project sponsors are being asked not just to commit but to demonstrate real, verified impact. • What are investors held to today? • How is genuine impact proven?	WAIPA Regional IPA Networks Session Parallel regional IPA network meetings.	
15:50 – 16:00	Coffee Break (Day 3, 15:50)					
16:00 – 17:00	**Closing Ceremony** **Presentation of the outcomes by the Co-Chairs of the Conference** **Closing statements by the WAIPA Leadership**					

***PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME** (JAMES ZHAN 2026-09-22)*

Participation in the Conference is complimentary for registered delegates.

***For more information & registration:** https://waipa.org/wic2026/*