World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

World Investment Conference

30th WAIPA WORLD INVESTMENT CONFERENCE (WIC 2026)

10-12 NOVEMBER 2026

GENEVA

in collaboration with GENEVA CONVENTION BUREAU | KDIPA KUWAIT DIRECT INVESTMENT PROMOTION AUTHORITY

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GLOBAL PARTNERS

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- ICC
- International Economic Development Council
- International Labour Organization
- International Trade Centre
- OECD – Better Policies for Better Lives
- UN trade & development (UNCTAD)
- UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UN Tourism
- World Bank Group

GLOBAL PARTNERS

- World Economic Forum
- EIF – Enhanced Integrated Framework – Trade for LDC development
- AfCFTA – Creating One African Market
- World Free Zones Organization
- قمة AIM للاستثمار – AIM Congress
- IsDB – البنك الإسلامي للتنمية – Islamic Development Bank

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 changing 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 opportunities 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 global investment community, including senior policymakers, business executives, IPA heads, international organizations, WIC 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 the past three conferences) and feature more than 100 sessions and engagements across six pillars: the Leaders Vision, High-level Panels, Thematic Sessions, Executive Focus, Partnership Exchanges, 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.

"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 Panels	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 2	Executive Focus	Partner-Led Sessions 1	Partner-Led Sessions 2	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 – 15:50	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	High-Level Panels	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 2	Executive Focus	Partner-Led Sessions 1	Partner-Led Sessions 2	Business Engagement
15:50 – 16:00	Coffee Break (Day 1, 15:50)						
16:00 – 16:50	**Global FDI: Beyond the Headlines** A reality check on what the latest FDI numbers do and do not tell us. • What is real growth? • What is statistical noise?	**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?	**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?	**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?	**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?	**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?	**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	**Geopolitics and Strategic Exposure** This panel looks at how trade friction, and security concerns shape investment choices. • What risks dominate decisions? • How are firms adapting?	**Advanced Manufacturing 2.0** Manufacturing FDI is being reshaped by automation, resilience, and localisation pressures. • What do firms want now? • How can countries compete?	**Building Productive Capacity** This session focuses on how countries can turn investment into stronger industrial ecosystems. • What capabilities matter most? • What gaps must close first?	**Negotiating with Confidence** Investment officials need practical skills to engage serious investors without overpromising. • What should be protected? • Where is flexibility useful?	**FAO: Climate-Smart Agribusiness** Agricultural investment must now align with resilience, productivity, and rural inclusion. • What models scale best? • What protects small producers?	**WAPPP: Infrastructure Through PPPs** In partnership with the, this session looks at how to structure partnerships to build lasting Infrastructure • What makes PPPs credible? • What improves execution?	**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	**30th-anniversary Gala Dinner WAIPA IPA Awards, and WEF-WAIPA Impact Investors Awards.**						

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

TIME	High-Level Panels	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 2	Executive Focus	Partner-Led Sessions 1	Partner-Led Sessions 2	Business Engagement
08:00 – 09:00				WAIPA Steering Committee (Members only)	**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	**Investing in Sports for a Healthier Future** In partnership with **European Football Clubs Foundation**: how 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?	**Energy Transition, Real Deals** Clean energy investment depends on credible projects, strong policy, and bankable structures. • What makes projects investable? • What slows financial close?	**Critical Minerals, Bigger Value** Resource-rich economies seek more value through processing, refining, and downstream industry. • How can IPAs promote value-added FDI? • What partnerships work best?	**Aftercare First** Retention and reinvestment are often the quickest route to stronger investment performance. • Why do firms stay? • Why do they expand elsewhere?	**ILO: Jobs, Skills, Better Outcomes** Investment promotion is shifting from counting jobs to improving job quality and skills, and long-term employability. • What metrics matter now? • How are skills pipelines built?	**WFZO: Smarter SEZs** A new generation of economic zones is focusing on linkages, green industry, and services. • What separates strong zones? • How should impact be measured?	**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** A panel on how subsidy races and strategic sectors are redrawing the investment map. • Which policies attract capital? • Which create distortion?	**Investment in SDG Sectors** This session looks at how to attract capital into sectors with high development returns. • What makes projects bankable? • How is impact shown?	**Health Investment for Resilience** Health systems are emerging as a serious investment frontier in service delivery and infrastructure. • What opportunities are investable? • What policy support is needed?	**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?	**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?	**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?	**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	High-Level Panels	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 2	Executive Focus	Partner-Led Sessions 1	Partner-Led Sessions 2	Business Engagement
11:00 – 11:50	**Supply Chains Redesigned** This session explores how firms are redesigning production networks for resilience and speed. • What shifts are durable? • Who gains from them?	**Digital Infrastructure at Scale** Data centres, fibre, and cloud services are becoming central to investment competitiveness. • What assets matter most? • What deters deployment?	**From FDI to Local Value** The real development payoff comes when foreign investors connect with domestic firms. • What are the practical tools? • How are linkages built?	**Facilitation That Delivers** A hands-on session on making investor journeys simpler, faster, and more predictable. • What slows approvals most? • What can be streamlined now?	**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?	**ITC: Gender, Inclusion and Investment** How can investment better support women, youth, and excluded groups. • What outcomes are realistic? • How should inclusion be tracked?	**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?	**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?	**Services as Growth Engines** Producer services such as logistics, ICT, and finance are essential for productive investment. • Which services unlock growth? • Where are the biggest gaps?	**Sector Pitch Masterclass** A practical workshop on building concise and convincing sector value propositions. • What belongs in a pitch? • What should be cut?	**UNCTAD: Reading FDI Better** A data-focused session on how policymakers should interpret FDI trends and distortions. • What do headlines miss? • What should IPAs track?	**Chatham House: Green Industrial Strategies and Investment (tbc)** 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?	**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	**Ambassadors in Dialogue with IPA Executives** Diplomatic missions and investment promotion agencies are natural partners, yet coordination between them remains inconsistent. • How to create synergies between diplomacy and promotion? • How to maximize impact?	**Investment Diversion and Beyond** Firms are diversifying footprints, but not always in the ways policymakers assume. • What is driving relocation? • What is just hedging?	**Post-Conflict Investment Recovery** Fragile and post-conflict markets need credible sequencing, safeguards, and early wins. • What builds first-mover trust? • Which sectors lead recovery?	**Grievance Response That Works** Investor grievances require speed, clarity, and institutional authority to avoid escalation. • What resolves issues fast? • What damages trust?	**ILO: Talent Without Borders** Visa regimes, work permit systems, and talent mobility policies are often the binding constraint on technology, R&D, and professional services investment. • What mobility barriers cost countries investment? • Which reforms move fastest?	**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?	**IPA–MNE Matchmaking (3)** Investment agencies and multinational firms meet for targeted pipeline-building. • Where is investor interest? • What support is needed?

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

TIME	High-Level Panels	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 2	Executive Focus	Partner-Led Sessions 1	Partner-Led Sessions 2	Business Engagement
14:50 – 15:00	Coffee Break (Day 2, 14:50)						
15:00 – 15:50	**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?	**Cities as Investment Platforms** Urban infrastructure, governance, and service quality are shaping subnational investment competition. • Which city factors matter most? • How can local agencies compete?	**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?		**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?	**ITC: Investment Facilitation in Practice** Investment facilitation commitments can be translated into domestic reform. • What capacity is missing? • What can be done?	**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	**Boardroom Meets Cabinet Room** Senior leaders discuss how states and firms can manage risk without losing speed and ambition. • Where do interests align? • Where do they clash?		**ITU: Governing 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?	**WAIPA Institutional Events (16:00 – 18:30)** • **General Assembly (Membership only)**	**FAO: 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?	**UNECE: Circular Systems, New Returns** Waste-to-value processing, industrial symbiosis, and product life-extension services are generating investable pipelines across multiple sectors. • Where does circularity create commercial value? • What policy drives scale?	
18:30 onwards	**Networking Reception**						

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

TIME	High-Level Panels	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 2	Executive Focus	Partner-Led Sessions 1	Partner-Led Sessions 2	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?	**Sustainable Investment, Real Accountability** This session addresses how to balance investment attraction with environmental and social protection. • What proves responsible investment? • How is impact measured?	**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?	**Building IPA Resilience** IPAs need stronger governance, talent, and funding models to manage volatility. • What capabilities are essential? • What weakens resilience?	**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?	**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?	**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	**Financing the Sustainable Transition** A plenary on turning climate and SDG ambition into real capital flows and investment projects. • What unlocks deployment? • Where are the bottlenecks?	**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?	**Diaspora Capital, Homeland Returns** Diaspora populations represent an underexploited source of investment and knowledge transfer for home economies. • What structures mobilise diaspora capital? • How are networks activated?	**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?	**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?	**WIPO: IP, Innovation and Investment** Intellectual property frameworks can shape the credibility of knowledge-based investment ecosystems. • What gives investors confidence? • How is value protected?	**B2B Matchmaking Session** Structured business-to-business matchmaking.
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee Break (Day 3, 10:50)						
11:00 – 11:50	**Supply Chain Opportunities for Emerging Locations** Supply chain diversification is creating opportunities for agile and investment-ready locations. • Who can absorb redirected demand? • What capacity is missing?	**Life Sciences, Local Production** Pharmaceutical manufacturing, biotech, and vaccine production are emerging as strategic investment priorities for health security and industrial upgrading. • Where are production gaps most acute? • What policy support unlocks investment?	**Longevity, Silver Economies** Ageing populations in dozens of countries are creating investment opportunities in eldercare, health tech, assisted living, and pension-linked services. • Which markets are moving first? • What regulatory frameworks enable scale?	**From Quantity to Quality** Investors, 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?	**WorldFZO: 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: Impact of geopolitics on investment promotion and 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?	**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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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?	**Financing Innovation Ecosystems** Investment in start-ups, tech hubs, and R&D is becoming a core competitiveness issue. • What makes ecosystems credible? • How are scale-ups supported?	**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?	**Selling the Location** Investment marketing now requires sharper stories, better proof points, and stronger segmentation. • What messages work best? • What weakens credibility?	**World Bank: De-risking That Works** A practical discussion on guarantees, blended finance, and project preparation tools. • Which instruments mobilise capital? • Where do gaps remain?	**UN Tourism: 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?	**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	**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?	**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?	**Health as an Investment Frontier** Healthcare, biotech, and health infrastructure are emerging as strategic investment opportunities. • Where is demand strongest? • What makes projects credible?	**Winning Reinvestment Decisions** Reinvestment choices are often made quietly long before projects are announced. • What signals expansion? • What triggers hesitation?	**ITU: 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?	**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?	**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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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?	**The New Rules of Engagement** Governments and investors discuss how strategic dialogue can stay transparent and effective. • What does good engagement look like? • How is trust preserved?	**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?	WAIPA Regional IPA Networks Session Parallel regional IPA network meetings.	**WTO: Tariffs, Treaties and Location Choice** Trade policy is now a core variable in site selection and investor planning. • What moves the shortlist? • What creates hesitation?	**OECD: 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?	
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 2026-08-3)*

Participation in the Conference is complimentary for registered delegates.

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

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