

21 JUNE 2023, 10:15–11:45 A.M.

PANEL DISCUSSION WTO CHAIRS PROGRAMME IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CO-COORDINATORS OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Investment Facilitation for Development in the WTO: how transparency, simplified authorization procedures and greater legal certainty can facilitate sustainable investment to developing and least-developed countries.

Programme:

10:15 – 10:25

Opening remarks

- ❖ **Stephen Karingi**, Moderator
 - Setting the scene: the pivotal role of FDI in enhancing Africa and Asia's economic development

10:25 – 11:20

Panellists (speaking time – max. 6 minutes per panellist)

- ❖ **Ambassador Dr. Sofia Boza** (Permanent Representative of Chile), and **Ambassador Mr. Jung Sung Park** (Deputy Permanent Representative of Korea), co-Coordiators of the negotiations on a WTO IFD Agreement
 - The IFD Initiative: why investment facilitation is important; origin and objectives; participants; and coverage
 - Negotiations on an IFD Agreement: state-of-play and next steps
- ❖ **Florian Gitt**, Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability
 - Economic impacts of investment facilitation
- ❖ **Dr. Matthew Stephenson**, Head of Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - The importance of investment facilitation measures in investors' decision-making: A private sector perspective
- ❖ **Mr. Joel Richards**, Senior Technical Specialist, Trade Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in Geneva
 - S&DT and Needs Assessments, key components of the IFD Agreement: the experience of Eastern Caribbean States
- ❖ **Prof. Caiphos Chekwoti**, WTO Chair in **Tanzania**
 - Investment facilitation aspects of the AfCFTA Protocol on investment, synergies with the IFD Agreement, including implementation and technical-assistance and capacity-building support needs
- ❖ **Prof. Dorotea López Giral**, WTO Chair in **Chile**
 - Boosting FDI through IFD and regional trade agreements (APEC, the Pacific Alliance, and others): the Chilean perspective
- ❖ **Prof. Kim Ngan Vu**, WTO Chair in **Viet Nam**
 - Asian perspectives on IFD
 - The implementation of investment facilitation commitments and their role in fostering sustainability
- ❖ **Prof. Jonas Barayandema**, WTO Chair in **Rwanda**
 - Progress and Prospects: Policy positions for Rwanda's investment negotiation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

11:20 – 11:40

Q&A and free-flow discussion

- ❖ **Prof. James Nedumpara**, WTO Chair in **India**
 - Investment facilitation in regional trade agreements in Asia
- ❖ **Prof. Tabitha Kiriti-Nganga**, WTO Chair in **Kenya**
- ❖ **Prof. Tsotang Tsietsi**, WTO Chair in **Lesotho** (online)
 - Lesotho's perspective on IFD
- ❖ Audience

11:40 – 11:45

Closing remarks

- ❖ **Stephen Karingi**, Moderator