

World Investment for Development Alliance

WIDA Newsletter # 1

12 October 2022

Introducing WIDA

The [World Investment for Development Alliance \(WIDA\)](#) is a [new global platform dedicated to promoting investment for sustainable development](#).

WIDA pursues this overarching objective by creating synergies and maximizing impact through joint advocacy, joint organization and joint actions among participating organizations.

Its vision is investing in sustainable prosperity for all. Its mission is to promote sustainable and inclusive investment through an open and structured network of organizations drawn from the investment-for-development community.

The founding organizations are: Academy of International Business (AIB), African Union Commission (AUC), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Trade Centre (ITC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Industrial Development Organizations (UNIDO), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), World Bank Group (WBG), and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Introducing the WIDA Newsletter

The WIDA Newsletter aims to share information on research, events and capacity building initiatives by participating organizations across the [main substantive areas identified by the Alliance](#):

- 1) Investment Promotion and Facilitation
- 2) Sustainable Investment/FDI Qualities
- 3) Investment Treaties
- 4) Digital FDI

To share both the latest developments and future opportunities, each newsletter covers both the last six months and the upcoming six months in terms of research, events and capacity building initiatives.

Highlights

Investment Promotion and Facilitation

Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers - 2nd Edition (ITC) - May 2022

This is the updated edition of [ITC's Toolkit for Policymakers](#) originally published in 2021. It combines insight and analytical expertise relevant to negotiating and implementing investment facilitation for development. It is intended to support the WTO negotiation on this topic, as well as unilateral, bilateral and regional efforts to facilitate sustainable investment flows.

Launch of the Global Alliance on Special Economic Zones (UNCTAD) - 17 May 2022

UNCTAD partnered with seven global, regional and national associations representing over 7,000 special economic zones (SEZs) in 140 countries to launch the [Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones \(GASEZ\)](#). It seeks to drive the modernization of these zones and maximize their contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit (UNESCAP, ITC, IDOS, WEF, ASEAN) - 19 May 2022

This [Roundtable](#) has been convened in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) project, jointly implemented by ITC and DIE, and was co-organized by UNESCAP together with those organizations, WEF and ASEAN. It allowed strategic exchange on the WTO IFD Agreement negotiations. Participants reflected on how countries can best use the IFD Agreement to enhance their business climate, attract higher value-added investment and boost sustainable development.

Launch of a Program to Enhance Investment Promotion in Francophone LDCs (WAIPA, EIF, IsDB) - 1 June 2022

WAIPA, together with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), launched a program to enhance investment promotion capabilities in francophone least developed countries (LDCs), in collaboration with OCO Global.

Emerging Scholars from Emerging Markets Program (AIB) – Spring 2022

In the Spring of this year, AIB's Special Interest Group on Emerging Markets launched the [Emerging Scholars from Emerging Markets Program \(ESEMP\)](#) to serve up-and-coming scholars in developing economies. The Program is designed to help graduate students and young scholars who are affiliated with an academic institution located in non-high income economies to build their research and publishing skills, drawing on extensive collaboration from our pool of AIB fellows.

Launch of WBG-WAIPA 2022 Global Investment Promotion Agencies Survey (WAIPA and WBG) - 27 June 2022

WAIPA is collaborating with the WBG to launch a single standard questionnaire every two years to save Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) time and resources, seek synergies, build a database, and produce useful, and free, reports for all investment promotion practitioners.

Making the Most of the African Continental Free Trade Area: Leveraging Trade and Foreign Direct Investment to Boost Growth and Reduce Poverty (WBG) - 30 June 2022

This [report](#) considers potential gains arising from greater flows of FDI from deeper integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. The AfCFTA is likely to attract cross-border investment by eliminating tariff and nontariff barriers and replacing the existing patchwork of bilateral and regional trade deals with a single, unified market.

Conclusion of Sustainable Investment Facilitation Pilots (WEF) - 30 June 2022

Four pilot projects successfully concluded after multi-year, public-private collaborations to identify – and then help implement – policies and measures to increase sustainable investment. These ran in [Cambodia](#) and [Ghana](#) since 2019, and in [Kenya](#) and [India](#) since 2020, leading to new legislation, regulatory reforms and new programs to unblock and scale sustainable investments.

Promoting Intra-regional FDI in ASEAN (UNESCAP) - 30 September 2022

This [side event](#) was part of the UNESCAP-ADB 3rd Ministerial on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration. It discussed intraregional FDI in the context of ASEAN, whose inflows stood at

\$29.9 billion in 2021. While lower than previous years, it is still the second highest source of FDI by ASEAN, proving that it is in a strategic position to push for intraregional FDI, with its existing platform to create investment opportunities.

Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) Network (OECD) - 2022

[OECD's initiatives on Investment Promotion and Facilitation](#) include research/analysis to feed IPA Network's discussions. This year, OECD focuses on analysing trend, opportunities and challenges for making FDI promotion work for regional development, and the role, strategies and coordination mechanisms of OECD IPAs. OECD has also contributed to the preparation of the Investment Facilitation Self-Assessment Guide coordinated by the WTO in the context of the negotiations on Investment Facilitation for Development.

Series of high-level regional roundtables on investment facilitation for development (ITC, UNESCAP, WEF, ASEAN, IDB, IDOS, ECA, ECLAC, OECS, SRC) - 2022

These roundtables, hosted in [Africa](#), [Arab](#), [Asia](#) and [Caribbean](#) regions, brought together policymakers and businesses to explore benefits and challenges of investment facilitation for promoting sustainable development. Programmes, reports and key remarks are available [here](#).

Sustainable Investment/FDI Qualities

Technical Workshop to develop a Comprehensive Strategy for the Mobilization Quality and sustainable Investment into Africa (AUC) - 22-25 March 2022

The workshop was organized in Cairo, Egypt, with the aim of developing a comprehensive Strategy for the [Mobilization of quality and sustainable Investment in Africa](#) which will then be used by the AU Member States to attract both Domestic and FDIs into their respective countries.

Standards and Investments in Sustainable Agriculture (IISD) - April 2022

This [State of Sustainability Initiatives Review](#) looks at voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs) from the investor's perspective and shows sustainability standards promote synergies between sound business practices and better environmental and social performance to catalyze much-needed investment in sustainable agriculture.

OECD FDI Policy Toolkit and Indicators (OECD) - June 2022

It represents the first multilateral instrument on using FDI to achieve the SDGs. The [OECD FDI Qualities Indicators](#) provide governments with the data to measure FDI's sustainability impacts, while the [OECD FDI Policy Toolkit](#) is designed to help governments identify priorities for reforms to attract and retain sustainable investment.

Alignment Assessment Tool for the ASEAN RAI (IISD and ASEAN) - June 2022

IISD and the ASEAN Secretariat launched the [Alignment Assessment Tool](#) for the ASEAN Guidelines for Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (the ASEAN RAI), which helps ASEAN member state governments determine their national legal and policy framework alignment with the ASEAN RAI.

An Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI: What? Why? How? (ITC) - June 2022

The [third edition of the Inventory](#) is a compilation of investment facilitation measures, their rationale and ways in which these measures are—or can be— implemented in practice. It was prepared in the framework of a project on IFD undertaken by the ITC and IDOS, and co-authored by the World Economic Forum, with contributions from several specialists.

World Investment Report 2022: International Tax Reforms and Sustainable Investment (UNCTAD) - 9 June 2022

In addition to the latest data on world investment trends (including focused on FDI for climate action), the [report for 2022](#) provides a guide for policymakers to navigate new global tax rules that have been negotiated, and potential implications for investment strategies.

Academy of International Business Annual Meeting (AIB) - 6-9 July 2022

After two years online, AIB successfully held its 2022 [Annual Meeting in Miami](#), with a complementary “virtual option” for those members still unable to convene in person. The theme of the conference was “Beyond Diversity and Inclusion; Equity and Fairness in International Business”, drawing more than 700 participants.

What is Climate FDI? How can we help grow it? (WEF and UNCTAD) - September 2022

This T20 [policy brief](#) for the G20 proposes that Climate FDI is a subset of Green FDI, that can help achieve climate goals. It further suggests to (1) mandate an expert group to develop a common understanding of climate FDI; (2) adopt 15 specific, targeted policies and measures in support of climate FDI; and (3) create a Task Force on Climate Investment Policy as part of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP).

AIB Insights Special Issue on “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in International Business: Dimensions and Challenges (AIB) – September 2022

The [special issue](#) features seven articles and one practitioner interview that examine dimensions and challenges associated with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in an international business environment.

The Effect of Multinational Enterprises on Climate Change: Supply chain Emissions, Green Technology Transfers, and Corporate Commitments (WBG) - Forthcoming

This forthcoming publication builds on an earlier white paper, [Catalyzing Investment for Green Growth](#), and is part of a broader program to include analytics, diagnostics, and policy guidance to inform investment climate policies and business regulations that attract and enable green private sector investment, both foreign and domestic.

Investment Treaties

Investment Treaties and Climate Change OECD Public Consultation (OECD) - 13 April 2022

The OECD invited [submissions](#) as part of a public consultation on Investment Treaties and Climate Change that took place between January and March 2022. The OECD’s initiative on investment treaties and climate change aims to consider the role of investment treaties and investor-state dispute settlement in promoting fossil fuels.

Approaches of International Courts and Tribunals to the Award of Compensation in International Private Property Cases and Implications for the Reform of Investor-State Arbitration (IISD) - June 2022

This [paper](#) contributes to discussions on how to address this issue of ISDS by comparing approaches used to award compensation in investment tribunals with those used by some of the most active and/or high-profile international courts and tribunals in international private property claims cases.

UNCTAD Issues Notes on Investment Treaties and Climate Action (UNCTAD) - September 2022

UNCTAD's [3rd IIA Issues Note](#), entitled "The International Investment Treaty Regime and Climate Action", analyses the interaction between IIAs and climate action. It takes stock of IIA provisions relevant to climate action and presents policy options. The related [4th IIA Issues Note](#) ("Treaty-based Investor-State Dispute Settlement Cases and Climate Action") looks at the past ISDS cases related to measures or sectors of direct relevance to climate action.

African Union Assembly Decision on AfCFTA Support (AUC) - 2022

The [35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly](#), on 5-6 February (Addis Ababa), produced a detailed document including decisions related to Phase II of the AfCFTA negotiations. A Committee for Investment was established to support the development of Guidelines and rules for negotiating the additional Protocol on this topic. The Protocol on Investment will promote, facilitate, and protect intra-African investments and create a harmonised and coordinated continental investment regime.

Digital FDI

Launch of the Digital FDI Initiative (WEF) - 24 May 2022

This initiative was launched at the WEF's Annual Meeting in Davos as a collaboration between the Forum and the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) ([press conference](#), [press release](#)). It seeks to identify the most important policies, regulations and measures that governments can adopt to attract digital investment. Relatedly, the WEF published a T20 [policy brief](#) (September), "Towards Two-way Digital FDI: Facilitating Digital Investment Flows between Economies".

Investment Policy and Regulatory Reviews (WBG) - September 2022 onwards

The WBG is supporting countries on how to leverage technology and digital solutions for FDI attraction and to provide better investor services. In addition, the 2022 Investment Policy and Regulatory Reviews (IPRRs) – which present information on the legal and regulatory frameworks governing FDI – include a dedicated section on FDI in digital economy sectors. The 2022 reviews will cover ten middle-income countries, including [Brazil](#), [China](#), [Indonesia](#), [Mexico](#), and [Viet Nam](#).

Calendar of Activities

Upcoming Activities

11-13 October 2022

14th Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators (IISD)

13-14 October 2022

Investment and Climate change - 9th session of the Multi-year Expert meeting on Investment Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development (UNCTAD)

17 October 2022

7th OECD IPA Network Meeting (OECD)

18 October 2022

5th OECD Roundtable on Investment and Sustainable Development (OECD, WIDA affiliated)

18 October 2022

Launch of the FDI Qualities Guide for Development Co-operation (OECD)

18 October 2022

Meeting on “Geopolitics, Trade and Investment” (World Economic Forum)

18 October 2022

AIB Journals Webinar: How Does China’s Belt and Road Initiative Change International Business (AIB)

19 October 2022

AIB Journals Webinar: IB and Public Health in Developing Economies (AIB)

19 October 2022

Presentation of 2022 World Investment Report to the Trade and Development Board (UNCTAD)

20-22 October 2022

Frontiers in International Business Conference: Multinationals & Sustainability in Global Supply Chains (AIB)

25 October 2022

Climate Trade and Investment Expert Exchange (WEF)

28 October 2022

2nd Expert Group Meeting on “Facilitating Climate FDI” (ITC and IDOS)

November 2022

G20 IPA Roundtables Webinar (WAIPA)

7-10 November 2022

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) (IISD)

9 November 2022

COP27 Breakfast: How can we better facilitate climate FDI? (WEF)

10-11 November 2022

Leveraging the Potential of Foreign Investment for Structural Economic Transformation and Sustainable Development in Landlocked Developing Countries, New Delhi (UNESCAP, UN-OHRLS)

14-16 November 2022

Expert Group Meeting on Digital Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok (UNESCAP)

14-18 November 2022

12th Session and 13th Session, Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission (UNCTAD)
(High-level session on sustainable investment for development will also feature IPA awards)

22 November 2022

13th Webinar on “Investment Facilitation: FDI Increase, Quality Job Creation, and other benefits”
(ITC, IDOS, WAIPA, WEF)

29-30 November 2022

The Future of Investment Treaties (Track 1 and 2 discussions on reforms) (OECD)

10 January 2023

Submission Deadline, AIB 2023 Annual Meeting, Warsaw (AIB)

22-24 February 2023

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Week, Bangkok (UNESCAP)