

WIDA

WORLD INVESTMENT FOR
DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

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Context on WIDA

The [World Investment for Development Alliance](#) (WIDA) works to promote investment for sustainable development. It does so by building links, creating synergies and maximizing joint impact among leading organisations active on investment for sustainable development.

WIDA participating organizations can be found [here](#).

WIDA Newsletter #2 Content and Focus

The newsletter aims to share the latest information on research, events and capacity-building initiatives across the main [focus areas](#) of WIDA, with a view to growing engagement and collaboration.

This edition pays special attention to activities related to investment facilitation, given the recent conclusion of text-based negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and adoption by the Heads of State of the African Union of the Investment Protocol of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The conclusion of these agreements represents an exciting opportunity to support sustainable development through their implementation.

The second part of the newsletter includes updates and opportunities on other areas of focus, additional to investment facilitation.

The previous WIDA newsletter is accessible [here](#).

Highlights

Investment Facilitation

Support on Sustainable Investment Framework Agreements (SIFA)

OECD - 2023-24

The OECD, upon the request of the European Commission, is currently evaluating the feasibility of SIFA with selected Southern Mediterranean countries. It looks at Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia's respective approaches towards facilitating investment benchmarked against the standards included in the EU-Angola SIFA. By identifying room for improvement in all five countries in terms of investment facilitation, it aims at guiding the EU Commission on potential future partners for SIFA negotiations.

Projects on Unlocking Investment for Sustainable Development in ECOWAS and SADC

OECD - 2023-24

The OECD has worked with both ECOWAS and SADC on projects on Unlocking Investment for Sustainable Development. Scoping reports were prepared for each region and presented at a ECOWAS public-private dialogue in Lomé, Togo on 11-12 April 2023 and at a SADC Investment Subcommittee meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 29-31 May 2023.

Session on 'Towards Investment Facilitation' at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM)

ITC, WAIPA and WEF - 9 May 2023

These organizations held a session at the Annual Investment Meeting in Abu Dhabi to present progress on the WTO IFD Agreement and discuss with investors and governments from the region the opportunity to leverage the new agreement to improve investment climates and grow investment for sustainable development.

Analysis of the conclusion of negotiations of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement

IISD – July 2023

IISD has been closely following the negotiations of the IFD Agreement that came to a conclusion on the 6 July 2023 and published an article analyzing the process and its significance for sustainable development if it is to be adopted in the upcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting (MC13).

Report published on “Africa’s Development Dynamics 2023: Investing in Sustainable Development”

AU – 19 July 2023

The [report](#) by the African Union highlights Africa’s need for USD 1.6 trillion by 2030 to achieve the SDGs, with an annual gap of USD 194 billion (7% of GDP). Despite Africa’s potential from youth population and natural resources, global crises, high inflation, and debt distress affect investments. Africa’s share of global foreign investment is declining, with rising capital costs. Collaboration with international partners and mobilizing investments is essential for Agenda 2063 and sustainable development.

Launch of Guidebook on Facilitating Climate FDI and presentation to APEC economies

WEF – 26 July 2023

The [Guidebook](#) presents four measures and offers step-by-step guidance and best practices to help investment authorities work with the private sector on facilitating climate FDI: FDI aligned with and supportive of climate goals. It was presented to APEC economies in a workshop during the Third Senior Officials Meeting in Seattle, USA on 4 August 2023.

Investment Project Preparation and Appraisal, as well as Gender Lens Investing Trainings

UNIDO

Since October 2022, UNIDO has held trainings in [Investment Project Preparation and Appraisal](#) (IPPA), as well as [Gender Lens Investing](#) (GLI) for a total of 110 senior and mid-level officials (45 percent female) from investment institutions and government ministries in 40 developing countries. This included an IPPA masterclass training in October 2022, the launch of the course in December, a masterclass training on GLI in June 2023, and a training in July with Caribbean IPAs in partnership with [CAIPA](#) and hosted by [ProDominicana](#).

Uptake of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Platform

UNIDO

After a successful launch of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Platform at the [World Investment Conference](#) on 13 September 2022, the platform was widely adopted and is now hosting 905 projects from 16 sectors in 21 countries in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific regions. The platform provides insights into investing in developing countries, detailed information on numerous investment opportunities and value chains, and site-level information on industrial parks, with the mission to inform potential investors and increase FDI in these countries.

Assessing the Impact of FDI on Decent Work - Exploring KPIs for Foreign Direct Investment Impact Assessment

ILO

The ILO-WAIPA survey [“The contribution of IPAs to achieving SDG 8”](#) found that 88% of the IPAs identified SDG 8 as a primary focus area for the next five years, with 65% highlighting the need for KPIs to assess the impact of FDI on decent work. ILO and WAIPA collaborated on [“Assessing the Impact of FDI on Decent Work”](#) based on the guidance provided in the [Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy](#). The brief will be launched during the [World Investment Conference](#)

Other investment areas

World Investment Report 2023: Investing in sustainable energy for all

UNCTAD - 2023

[UNCTAD's WIR 2023](#) reveals a widening annual investment deficit that developing countries face as they work to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The gap is now about \$4 trillion per year. The report shows that global FDI fell 12% in 2022 and analyses how investment policy and capital market trends impact investment in the SDGs, particularly in clean energy. It highlights that developing countries need renewable energy investments of about \$1.7 trillion each year but attracted only \$544 billion in clean energy FDI in 2022. The report calls for urgent support to developing countries to enable them to attract significantly more investment for their transition to clean energy, proposing actions.

Investment Policy Reviews of Morocco, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Rwanda

OECD (in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank for Bangladesh) – 2023-24

The OECD is supporting investment climate reforms in Morocco, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Rwanda through country-level [Investment Policy Reviews](#). The reviews provides analysis and tailored policy recommendations on areas such as the regulatory framework for investment, investment promotion and facilitation policies, responsible business conduct, economic zones, and policies to improve the sustainable impact of FDI.

Capacity building and technical assistance on proactive investment attraction in Central and South Asia

UNESCAP – 2023-2024

UNESCAP is providing support to six IPAs in the Central and South Asian regions to develop and implement practical, proactive investment attraction strategies to boost FDI in digital and green economy sectors. In addition to this, UNESCAP is providing tailored trainings for each IPA to better enable them to implement the action plans.

Increasing the Impact of FDI on Gender Equality Initiative

UNESCAP – 2023-2024

UNESCAP is supporting Bangladesh and Fiji in implementing several initiatives to increase the impact of foreign investors on gender equality in their countries. Initiatives range from special incentive schemes for business with a larger impact on women, annual business awards for foreign investors with initiatives that improve gender equality outcomes in and outside of the firm, financing for women entrepreneurs for trade and investment missions, implementation of gender focal points within each IPA, and updating HR policies to include gender equality clauses.

Advice and capacity building on investment incentives for sustainable development

OECD – 2023-24

The OECD is supporting partner regions (notably in the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa) in the design, governance, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation of investment incentives for sustainable development, leveraging OECD's new [Investment Tax Incentives Database](#) and model to compute effective tax rates accounting for incentives. Under the EU-OECD Programme on Investment in the Mediterranean, a [capacity building](#)

[workshop on investment incentives](#) was conducted for the MENA region in June 2023, benefiting investment and tax authorities. The workshop was enriched with inputs from the World Bank.

UNIDO-WAIPA ACP IPA Survey Results presented at Annual Investment Meeting in Abu Dhabi

UNIDO and WAIPA – 10 May 2023

To support African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) IPAs in enhancing investment facilitation and promotion efforts, [WAIPA](#) and UNIDO conducted a joint survey covering IPAs across the ACP region, the results of which were presented at the [Annual Investment Meeting](#) in Abu Dhabi. This underpinned UNIDO's contribution to the International Training Centre ILO “[Effective Investment Facilitation and Sustainable Development](#)” training, 15-19 May 2023. The full report will be launched before the end of 2023.

ILO-WAIPA training course “Effective investment facilitation and sustainable development” ITC-ILO, (15-19 May 2023)

ILO and WAIPA (and UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD)

The ILO-WAIPA joint in-person training “[Effective investment facilitation and sustainable development](#)” brought together IPAs from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lesotho, Madagascar, Somalia, and Togo; as well as IPAs from other countries in Africa and Asia. The programme – delivered in partnership with UNCTAD, UNIDO and OECD – focused on assisting IPAs to strengthen their investment promotion and facilitation capacities, expand their after-care services and, more broadly, enhance the sustainable development impacts of FDI.

Policy brief on ‘How do Trade and Investment Contribute to Peace and Stability? What Should Policymakers Do’

WEF – June 2023

This T20 [policy brief](#) provides G20 policymakers with a framework to better understand and use trade and investment for peace and stability (TIPS), the ‘TIPS Framework’. The TIPS Framework is grounded in empirical evidence and composed of 12 guiding principles that can help orient and inform TIPS strategy and policy, coupled with 12 targeted measures to operationally leverage trade and investment for peace and stability.

Digital FDI Enabling Project in Pakistan: in-country interviews and investor survey

WEF and DCO - July 2023

In partnership with the Board of Investment and the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication of Pakistan, carried out almost 70 in-country interviews to identify challenges and enabling policies, regulations and measures to grow investment in the digital economy. A survey of 100 investors complements the one-on-one interviews.

Rethinking National Investment Laws: A study of past and present laws to inform future policy-making

IISD - July 2023

This IISD report and its related webinar uncover the evolution, functions, and potential of national investment laws. It provides a comprehensive guide for policy-makers to understand and reform these laws to meet challenges such as climate change and global inequality.

New Handbook on how to attract responsible agriculture investment for ASEAN parliamentarians

IISD, FAO and AIPA - 12 July 2023

IISD, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), developed a [Handbook](#) that provides parliamentarians with tools to advocate for responsible investment to transform food systems. It provides a comprehensive overview of specific actions to support enabling environments for responsible investment in food systems, including appropriate laws, adequate financing, and parliamentary oversight.

Award for Research on Investment and Development

AIB and UNCTAD - 2 August 2023

The [Award for Research on Investment and Development](#) is jointly established by UNCTAD and AIB and awarded to the best young academic research work on international investment and development. On 2 August 2023, it was awarded to Pascal Simon Mayer (University of Muenster) and Christopher Sabel (Erasmus University of Rotterdam) for the article [Policy Support Schemes and MNE Investment Location Choice](#).

Launch of nature-based infrastructure online course

IISD, UNIDO, GEF and Mava Foundation – September 2023

The Nature-Based Global Resource Center, ran by IISD in partnership with UNIDO and with support from GEF and the Mava Foundation, has developed an online course to introduce nature-based infrastructure, how to value these types of sustainable projects and mobilize investment for them. Registration for the five-week course is open and will begin on 12 September 2023.

ASEAN Investment Forum

UNESCAP, Indonesian Ministry of Investment, WAIPA, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Business and Advisory Council and Bloomberg – 2 September 2023

The first ASEAN Investment Forum was held during the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Jakarta, India. During the event, IPAs from the ASEAN region showcased ready to invest opportunities in three sectors: electric vehicles, renewable energy, and healthcare. This Forum served as a kick-start initiative for an extensive ESCAP-ASEAN collaboration on investment promotion and attraction. The collaboration will include developing the ASEAN Investment Forum into an annual event, investment promotion and attraction training programmes, and the development and implementation of a regional action plan on investment promotion and attraction for sustainable development.

United Nations Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum: Boosting Foreign Direct Investment in the Digital Economy for Sustainable Development

UNESCAP and WAIPA – 9 September 2023

The 2nd [Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum](#) was held as part of the China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen, China. The event brought together more than 20 IPAs from across Asia and the Pacific and investors as well as other stakeholders to discuss what actions and measures can be undertaken to promote and facilitate FDI in digital infrastructure, new digital businesses, and digital adoption by existing firms.

Annual IPA CEOs Meeting

WAIPA – 22 September 2023

On September 22, 2023, WAIPA hosted an [annual meeting](#) for its member IPA CEOs. This event centered around the presentation of key findings from the [UNCTAD World Investment Report 2023](#). The meeting featured a presentation by James Zhan, Director of Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD and Chief Strategic Adviser to WAIPA, followed by dynamic discussions among participants.

Building Capacity in Investment Promotion to Advance the SDGs in least developed countries (LDCs)

ILO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, and WAIPA (and UN-OHRLLS, WTO EIF)

UN-OHRLLS, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO and WAIPA, supported by the WTO EIF, established a tailor-made on-line [Executive College for IPAs to address the unique challenges in promoting investment in LDCs](#). It explored trends, analyzed case studies, facilitated peer-to-peer learning and equipped participants with tools. IPAs from Afghanistan, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Haiti, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor Leste, Togo, Tuvalu and Uganda participated.

DG Gilbert F. Hougbo highlights importance of decent work for investment promotion to lift LDCs out of poverty

ILO

In recorded [remarks](#) to a side event during the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs , ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Hougbo stressed the need for more and better investment in LDCs to achieve the SDGs. He also reaffirmed ILO's commitment to the "Capacity Development Programme for Investment Promotion Agencies of Least Developed Countries" a partnership between UNCTAD, ILO, UNIDO, UN-OHRLLS and WAIPA, funded by the EIF of the WTO.

Calendar of Recent and Upcoming Activities

16-20 October 2023

UNCTAD

8th World Investment Forum, available [here](#).

18 October 2023

UNCTAD and UNESCAP

Investment Promotion and Its Impact on Gender Equality event during the 8th World Investment Forum, available [here](#).

26-27 October 2023

OECD

Southeast Asia Regional Programme Ministerial Forum 2023: Sustainable and Quality Investment: New Momentum for OECD-Southeast Asia Partnership

25-27 October 2023

IISD

15th Investment Policy Forum. Theme: Fostering coherence for sustainable investment governance - Strengthening the institutional dimension

02-03 November 2023

UNIDO

International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum.

7-9 November 2023

IISD, UNCTAD

19th IGF Annual General Meeting. Theme: “Sharing Mining Benefits in the Energy Transition.”

7-8 November 2023

OECD Sustainable Investment Days

- OECD Investment Promotion Agency Network Meeting: Making FDI work for sustainable and regional development.
- Roundtable on Investment and Sustainable Development: The future of investment policy: Do we need a paradigm shift to address global challenges?

7-9 November 2023

UNESCAP

Proactive investment attraction capacity building workshops for Asian-Pacific and Latin American IPAs, more information available [here](#).

11-14 December 2023

WAIPA

World Investment Conference

WIDA Participating Organizations

