

## **WTO: PATHS FORWARD**

### **The Case for and Against a WTO Multilateral Framework On Investment Facilitation**

9 October 2018, 16:00 - 17:00 Central European Time

Webinar Link: Registration is required to attend this interactive webinar. Please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8078645586156903949?source=email>

#### **WEBINAR OBJECTIVES**

Intensive structured discussions on a multilateral framework on investment facilitation are underway in the WTO, following a Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development adopted by 70 members at the Organization's 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in December last year. They are conducted against a 23% fall in foreign direct investment flows in 2017, and projections indicating a fragile growth for 2018.

Regardless of the momentum, a number of countries, including developing countries, are reluctant to engage in these structured discussions. Their concerns persist despite the joint statement explicitly stating that the core objective for creating the framework is to increase the participation of developing and least developing countries in global investment flows.

This webinar—which will be conducted in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants—will discuss the principal issues surrounding the negotiations of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation. The questions addressed include the following:

- **Why** a multilateral framework on investment facilitation?
- **What** could such a framework contain and would it promote sustainable FDI?
- **Why** should such a binding framework be negotiated in the WTO?
- **What** are the specific needs of, and benefits for, developing countries?
- **Where** do we go from here?

*Moderator:* Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, CCSI, and Senior Fellow, ICTSD

#### *Panellists:*

- Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the WTO and Coordinator of the WTO Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development
- Felipe Hees, Minister Counsellor, Mission of Brazil to the WTO
- Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh, Senior Counsel, King & Spalding
- Kavaljit Singh, Director, Madhyam, a public policy research institute, New Delhi

*Facilitator:* Rashmi Jose, Senior Programme Officer, ICTSD

#### Background documentation

- [Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development](#)
- [Crafting a Framework on Investment Facilitation](#)

*WTO: Paths Forward* is an ICTSD initiative that provides the research, ideas and neutral spaces negotiators need to ensure the technical work required for a successful 12th WTO Ministerial Conference moves forward.