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Agenda Item 4

*From decisions to actions – Investment and enterprise development as
catalysts for accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
(a) Investment*

United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in the SDGs 2017

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this presentation of the 2017 United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year, the Awards recognize the exceptional achievements of inward and outward investment promotion agencies in promoting investment that advances SDGs.

Adopted at the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development in 2015, the SDGs are the international community's most ambitious action plan to put the globe on a sustainable growth path. 2030 has been set as the date by when we aspire to do so.

To achieve this plan will require formidable resources. By UNCTAD's estimates, between \$5–7 trillion will need to be invested annually to advance the goals. For developing countries, the requirement is as high as \$4.5 trillion per year. The current levels of investment leave an annual investment shortfall of \$2.5 trillion.

Obviously, this gap cannot be met by public investment alone. Investment and other sources of international funding will need to be mobilized to bridge the shortfall. Against this backdrop, many inward and outward investment agencies, including development finance institutions, have been tasked by their governments to prime their activities on SDG-oriented investment.

The 2017 United Nations Awards for Promoting Investment in the SDGs recognizes these efforts. This is a practical way of highlighting best practice and ensuring that it spreads widely. In this way, we can help mainstream the SDGs into investment policymaking and promotion programmes – both in developing and developed countries.

A large number of inward and outward investment promotion agencies from around the world participated in an online survey, which helped determine this year's winners. Investment projects were assessed along with the role the agencies played in facilitating them. Then their contribution to SDG objectives were rated. Based on this assessment, 10 inward and outward agencies were short-listed for the awards. They are:

- From Brazil, Investe São Paulo;
- From China, the China Africa Investment Fund;
- From Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Investment Commission;
- From France, Business France;
- From India, Invest India;
- From Mauritius, the Board of Investment;
- From South Africa, Invest Durban;
- From South Africa, Investment South Africa (InvestSA);
- From Spain, Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo; and
- the Islamic Development Bank.

This year's Awards are made to three equal winners. The winning agencies will be announced in alphabetical order.

May I now invite H.E. Ms. Isatou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of The Gambia, to present the first Award.

Board of Investment
from Mauritius

The agency receives the Award for its role in setting up, together with other government entities and the private sector, a smart city scheme. It is also awarded for its support to the large-scale Unicity project that combines quality education, affordable housing, a business park and social services within a clean environment. Investment facilitation services by the Board of Investment, such as pre-policy clearance, fast-track arrangements and its one-stop shop service, were key for attracting investors to Unicity. Congratulations!

I invite the representative of *Board of Investment of Mauritius* to receive the Award.

May I now invite H.E. Mr. Farukh Amil, Ambassador of Pakistan and Chair of the Investment and Enterprise Commission to present the second Award.

COFIDES – Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo
from Spain

The agency receives the award for providing critical finance for the expansion and modernization of a coffee cultivation and processing project in Colombia. The project empowers hundreds of women farmers through purchase price premiums and presents a best-practice example of how sustainable farming practices can be cultivated. COFIDES finance and business support services catalyzed the participation of other development and microfinance institutions in the project. The initiative is located in a former conflict zone and represents the first productive investment in the area since the end of the conflict. Congratulations!

Let me invite the representative of *COFIDES* to receive the Award.

May I now invite H.E. Ms. Ana Lehmann, Secretary of State for Industry of Portugal to present the Award.

Ethiopian Investment Commission
from Ethiopia

The agency is recognized for its instrumental role in facilitating the development of Hawassa Industrial Park, which is an eco-friendly textile and apparel facility with waste treatment, renewable energy, and efficient practices in water and energy use. The Commission has attracted high-quality investments to the park, which employ more than 12,000 people, over 80% of whom are young women. The site offers onsite social facilities for its workers, including health care and education services. Congratulations!

I invite the representative of the *Ethiopian Investment Commission* to receive the Award.

I offer my congratulations to the Award winners for their commitment to promoting investment in the SDGs, and for setting excellent examples that we hope will be followed by more IPAs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The entries that we received for this year's Awards reflect a rich and encouraging collection of innovative programmes, initiatives and activities to promote investment in the SDGs. They show that inward and outward investment institutions are working proactively on the SDGs, and are already seeing impressive impact.

However, much work remains to be done. We need more IPAs to pursue such initiatives, in more countries.

In order to catalyze efforts in this area the UN Investment Promotion Awards will continue to focus on investment that contributes to the SDGs in the foreseeable future. UNCTAD will redouble its support to IPAs to identify investment in SDG sectors and develop pipelines of bankable projects to advance the Goals.

We hope that these awards and the examples set by the winners will contribute to international efforts for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.