



## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General  
14 October 2016

English only

---

### Fourteenth session

Nairobi

17–22 July 2016

## World Investment Forum

### Summary prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. Over 3,000 investment stakeholders from more than 150 countries participated in the World Investment Forum, held in parallel with the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Forum, with its diversity of participation, complemented the Conference with a host of interesting and press-worthy events. The Forum also made substantive contributions through its high-level events, which informed participants of some of the main areas of intergovernmental deliberations, permitting in-depth discussions on specific issues in the area of investment and enterprise development.
2. The World Investment Forum provided a solid platform to help attract business leaders to the Conference and an opportunity for ministers from the South to engage in debate with leading executives of global companies. In addition, the Forum attracted new members of the global investment community, including mayors and city developers, health ministers and young, future business leaders. Finally, the Forum showcased novel features such as the Empretec youth entrepreneurs start-up pitch and the Global Enterprise Registration awards.
3. The Forum served as the launching pad for an important new UNCTAD policy drive on investment facilitation and for broad dissemination of the new UNCTAD global action menu for investment facilitation. It served as the venue for the Nairobi Statement on Investment in Access to Medicines, a major collaborative initiative between UNCTAD, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the African Union. In addition, the Forum set in motion the next phase of reform of the international investment agreements (IIAs) regime, and launched a new Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative work stream on green finance. Finally, the Forum set the strategic direction for the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on the contribution of accounting to the measurement of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

GE.16-17825(E)



\* 1 6 1 7 8 2 5 \*

Please recycle



4. The grand opening and Global Leaders Investment Forum was well attended and included a record number of speakers. The World Investment Forum was officially opened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Vice-President of the Comoros and the Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives on behalf of the President of Kenya. Four panels consisting of four participants each, representing Governments and multinational companies, discussed how to move from decisions to actions and unshackle investment for sustainable development. Three awards for excellence in partnering for investment promotion were presented, to Invest India, Invest South Africa and Wesgro (South Africa). Special recognitions for successful long-term partnerships with UNCTAD were awarded to the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, Kenya Investment Authority, Lesotho National Development Corporation and World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. Two Global Enterprise Registration awards were presented for excellence in investment facilitation, to Bhutan and Cameroon.

5. Policymakers expressed support for the work of UNCTAD in the area of investment. During the Global Leaders Investment Forum, ministers expressed appreciation for the UNCTAD investment and enterprise policy frameworks and for the work of UNCTAD on investment promotion and facilitation and IIAs. They called for increased focus on investment facilitation, and welcomed the UNCTAD global action menu for investment facilitation. The Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden announced new financial support totalling \$2.1 million for UNCTAD work on investment for development.

6. At the High-level Tripartite Conference on Investment Promotion in the Sustainable Development Goals, investment promotion professionals, policymakers and private sector representatives explored innovative ideas for attracting investment in the Goals. Three interactive panels discussed the important role of partnerships, the promotion of investment in information and communications technology and the emerging role of non-traditional investors in the financing of projects related to the Goals.

7. During the panel on investing in Eastern Africa, policymakers and private sector representatives discussed regional cooperation in this region.

8. At the High-level International Investment Agreements Conference, experts on IIAs discussed options for the design of sustainable development-friendly IIAs and how to make IIAs work better for sustainable development. More than 40 ministers, chief negotiators, parliamentarians and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society took stock of IIA reform steps and brainstormed options for the next phase of IIA reform. Delegations noted that the UNCTAD road map for IIA reform and its *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development* had provided helpful guidance for reform-oriented actions at different levels of policymaking. There was a need for intensified international coordination on IIA reform, and delegations requested UNCTAD to support the next phase by providing a platform for exchanges and developing further policy tools, such as a checklist of actions for the second phase of reform. They suggested that stronger provisions on investment promotion and facilitation should be included in IIAs, to close a systemic gap in international investment policy. Finally, they noted that the UNCTAD global action menu for investment facilitation was a valuable reference point.

9. During the panel hosted by UNCTAD and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, city leaders, high-level representatives and investors underscored the need for investment in sustainable urban development. They emphasized that it was important to plan city development and build the technical expertise and institutional capacity needed to attract and facilitate such investment. Participants agreed that key messages from the meeting would be presented at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016.

10. Three new stock exchanges (Botswana, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania) announced their partnership with the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative. The Initiative and investment stakeholders launched a new work stream on green finance.
  11. The high-level round table on investment and enterprise development highlighted the importance of linking international investment with local entrepreneurs. Ministers noted the importance of the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, and contributed new ideas for promoting social and green entrepreneurship and fostering entrepreneurship opportunities for youth, women and groups such as minorities, migrants and people living in post-conflict areas.
  12. UNCTAD, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and health and trade ministers from member States of the African Union signed the Nairobi Statement on Investment in Access to Medicines, which affirmed their commitment to facilitating investment in local pharmaceutical production in Africa, in support of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9 and 17.
  13. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting launched an initiative to further the contribution of accounting and reporting to measuring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative would aim to identify core indicators for company reporting, in line with the monitoring framework for the Goals.
  14. During the private sector development and gender dialogue, ministers, heads of international organizations, business leaders and civil society representatives discussed ways to support women's participation in business. Participants also discussed innovative approaches to and best practices in promoting gender balance in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
  15. Women entrepreneurs from Argentina, the Gambia and Viet Nam were the winners of the 2016 Empretec Women in Business Awards. During the ceremony, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD announced that the Empretec programme would be extended to Kenya.
-