



COURSE ON KEY ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA

Short courses for Permanent Missions in Geneva
Organised by the Division on Technology and Logistics-Knowledge Development Branch
Policy Capacity Building Section / P166 courses

Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Diplomats

Friday, 18 September 2020

Delivered by the Investment Promotion Section of the Division on Investment and Enterprise

PROGRAMME

Geneva, Palais des Nations		Room XIX
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome address, TBD The short course will be moderated by Ms. Randa Jamal, Programme Coordinator, Policy Capacity Building Section	
10:15 - 11:15	Session 1 This session will cover foreign direct investment (FDI) trends, investment in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. It will include an overview of recent regional and global FDI flows, underlying trends in foreign investment and the financing gap to achieve the SDGs. The session will also look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FDI prospects and the promotion of investment. Presented by: Mr. Paul Wessendorp, Chief, Investment Promotion Section (IPS), Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE) Q&A session	
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 - 13.00	Session 2 This session will present UNCTAD's forthcoming handbook entitled " <i>Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Diplomats</i> ", reflecting the latest developments in this field, including the promotion of investment in Goal-related projects. It will zoom in on tools and practices that diplomats and commercial attachés can use to contribute to the promotion of investment with a high-sustainable development impact. This is in line with the broader trend in diplomacy worldwide which is increasingly economic, digital, and SDG-oriented. In order of presentations: Ms. Stephania Bonilla Feret, Economic Affairs Officer, IPS, DIAE Ms. Natalia Guerra, Economic Affairs Officer, IPS, DIAE Q&A session	

Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Diplomats

The beginning of the next “decade of action” (2020–2030) to push for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been marked by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on the global economy. The effect of the crisis on SDG financing and investment can be substantial with decreasing investment flows to developing countries, public budgets under strain, and an economic recovery that may take years. At the same time, the pandemic has highlighted that investing in the SDGs, including in resilient health and agriculture value chains, is now more relevant than ever. While investment promotion agencies (IPAs) naturally play a central role in this endeavour, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and their network of diplomatic services have a real opportunity to support the promotion and facilitation of SDG-relevant investments needed for post-COVID-19 recovery. Mobilizing diplomats for this quest is also in line with the broader trend in diplomacy worldwide, which is increasingly economic, digital, and SDG-oriented.

The interactive short course will first provide diplomats with a general background on FDI trends worldwide, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FDI prospects and investment promotion, and the financing gap to achieve Agenda 2030. The course will also shed light on UNCTAD’s upcoming handbook on investment promotion for diplomats, which will reflect the latest developments in this field, including the promotion of investment in Goal-related projects providing best practices and tools for diplomats.