

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



**World Investment Report 2024**

# Investment Facilitation and Digital Government

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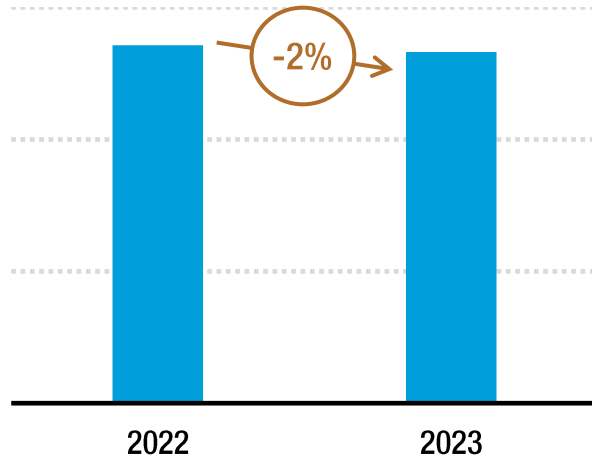


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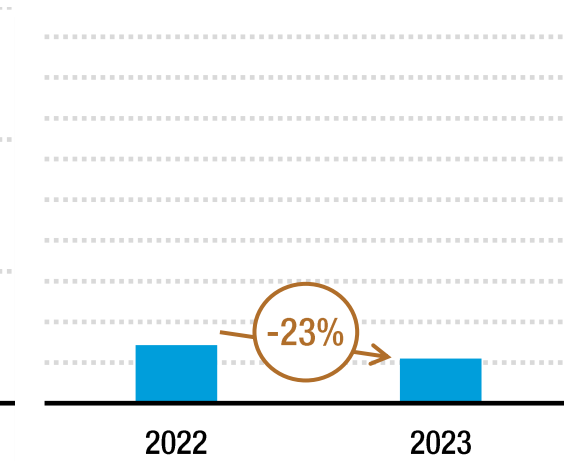
- 1. International Investment trends**
- 2. Investment policy trends**
- 3. Sustainable finance trends**
- 4. Investment facilitation and digital government**

## Global FDI trends

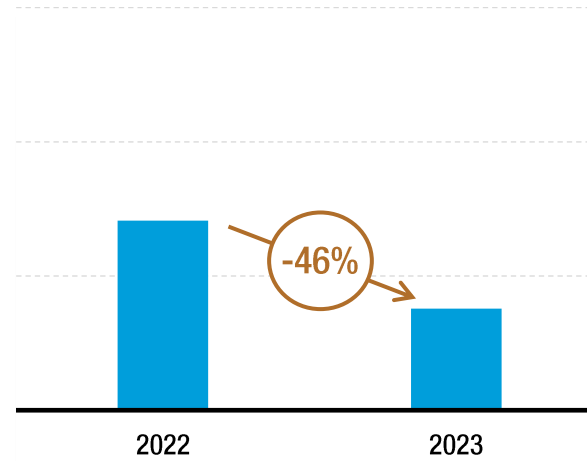
# ➤ Trends in international investment



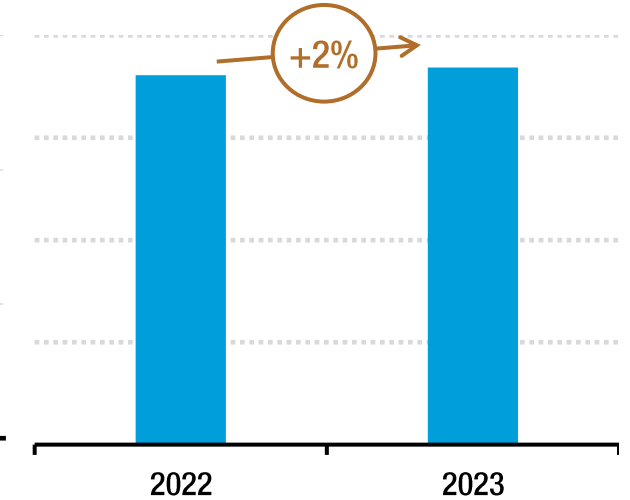
➤ **FDI**  
(Value, billions of dollars)



➤ **International project finance**  
(Number)



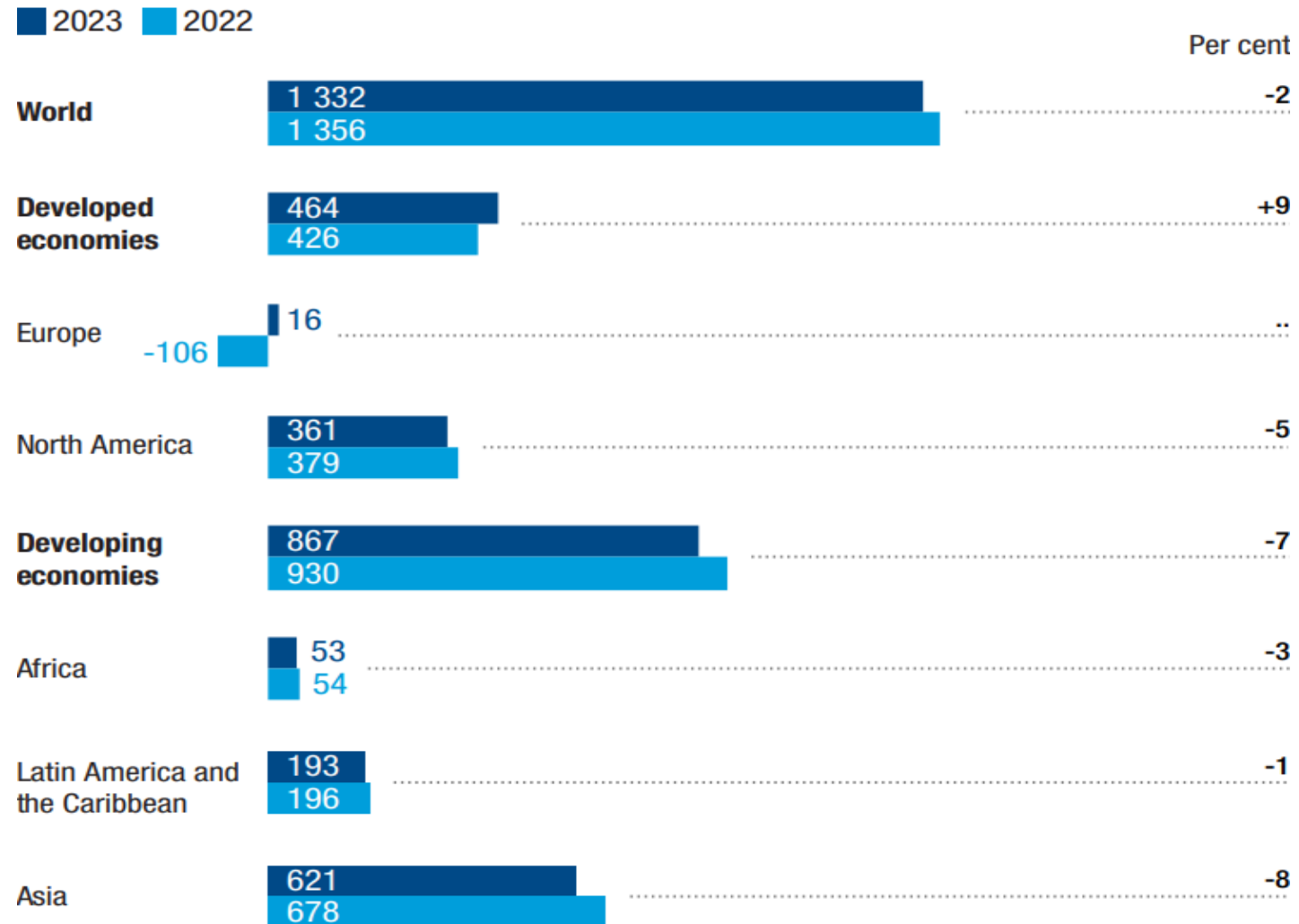
➤ **Cross border M&As**  
(Value, billions of dollars)



➤ **Greenfield projects**  
(Number)

# Foreign direct investment declined in most regions

Inflows by economic grouping and region  
(billions of dollars and percentage change)

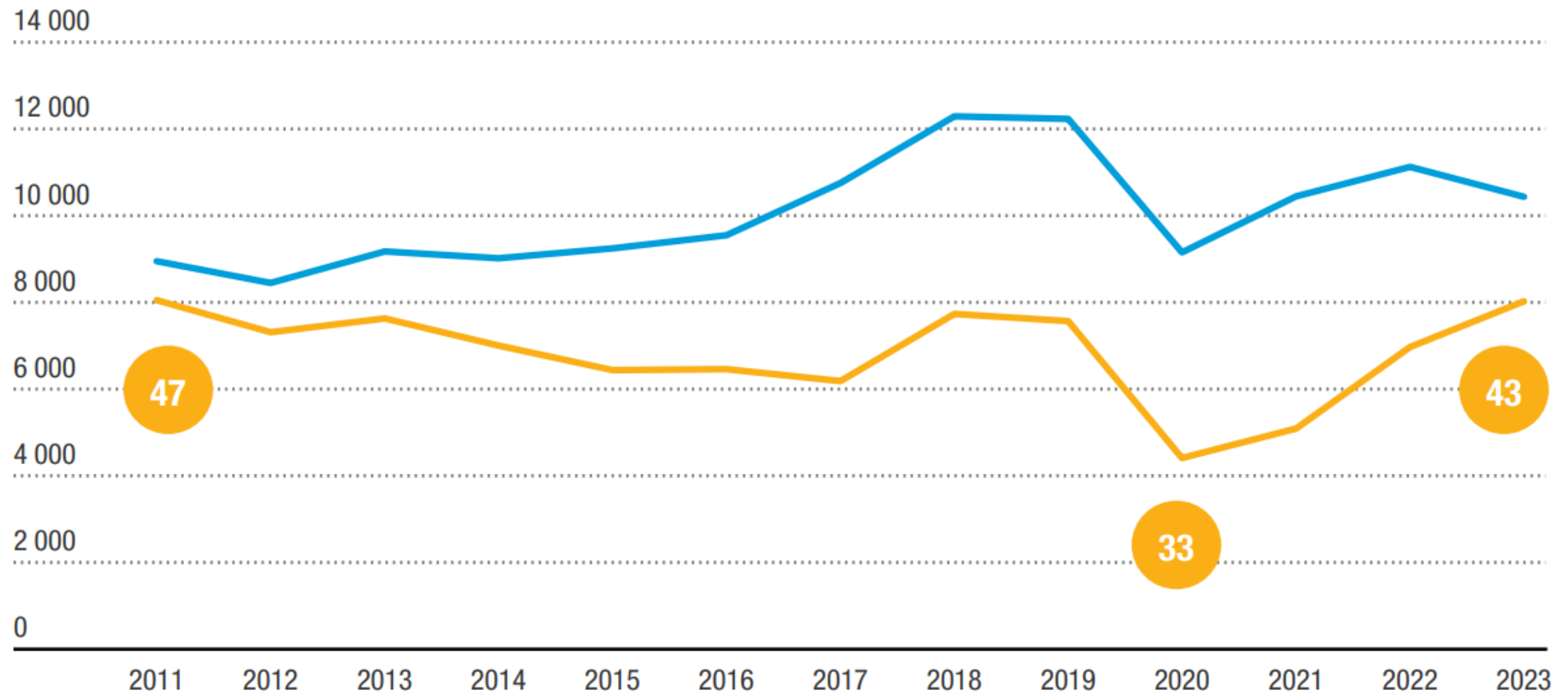




# Greenfield projects in developing economies are regaining lost ground

Announcements by economic grouping  
(Number and percentage)

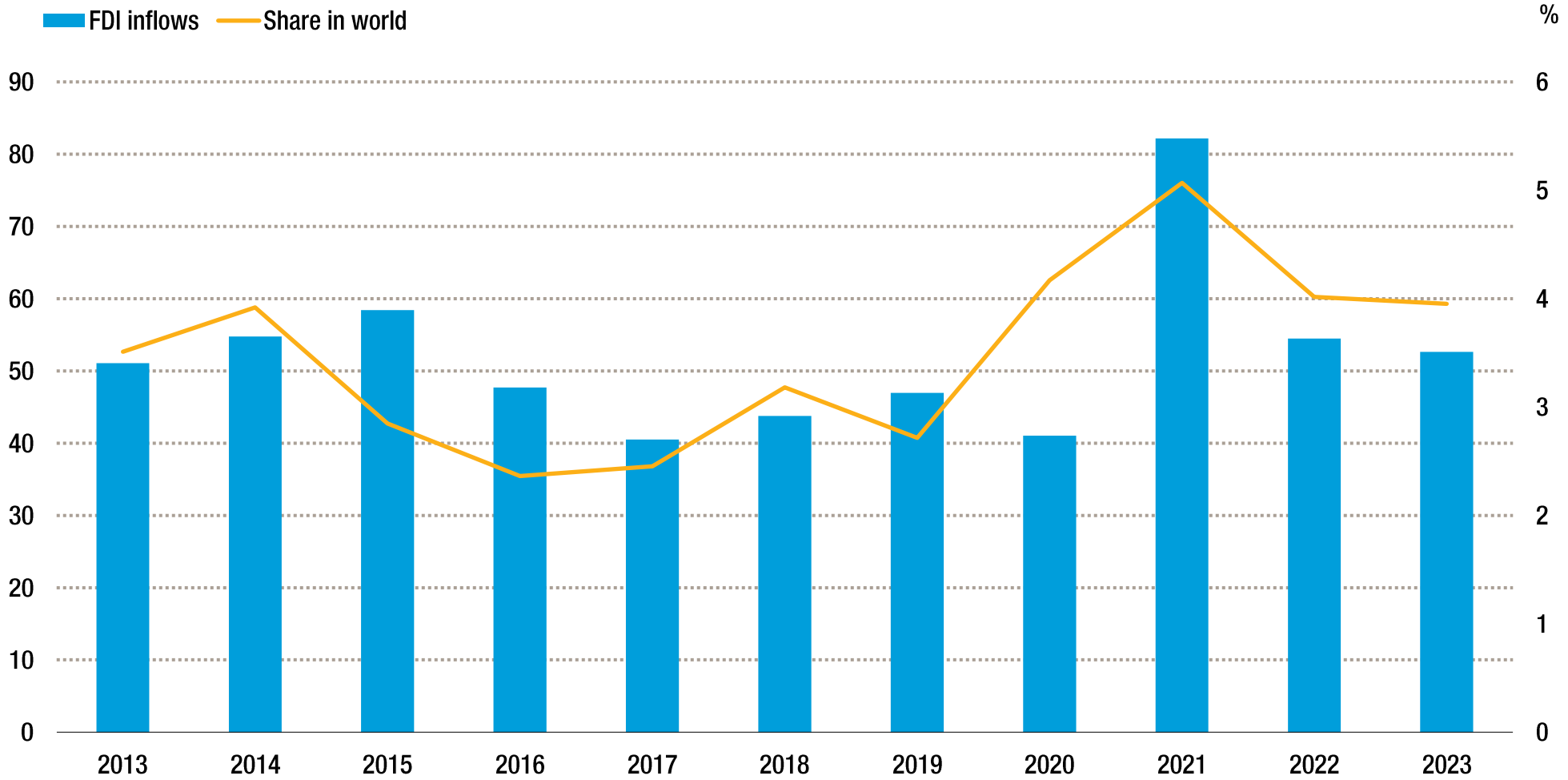
— Developed — Developing ● Share, developing (per cent)



## FDI trends in Africa

# ➤ FDI to Africa remained flat

Inflows Africa and share in world flows  
(Billions of dollars and percentage change)

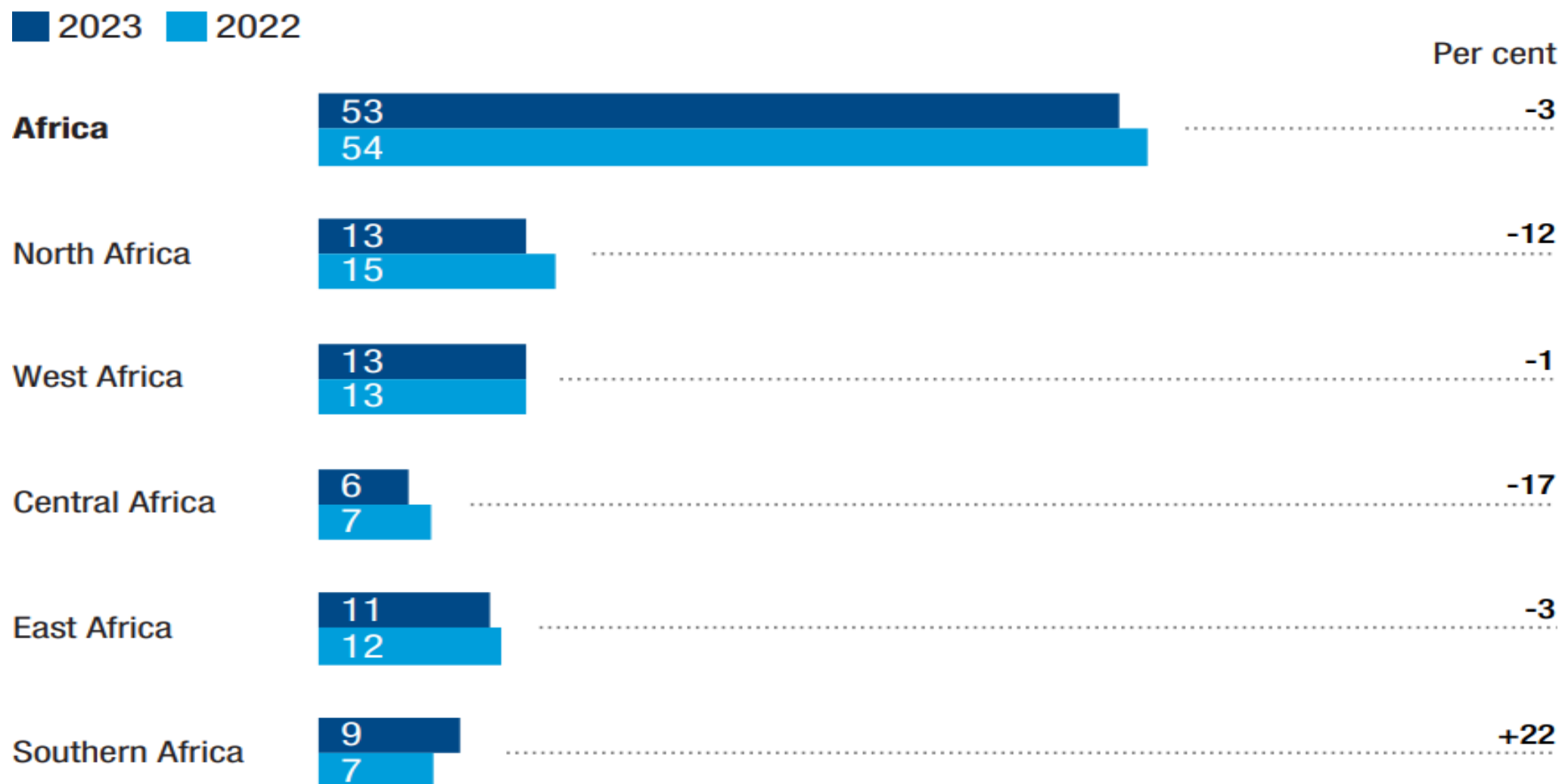






# Foreign direct investment to most regions in Africa declined

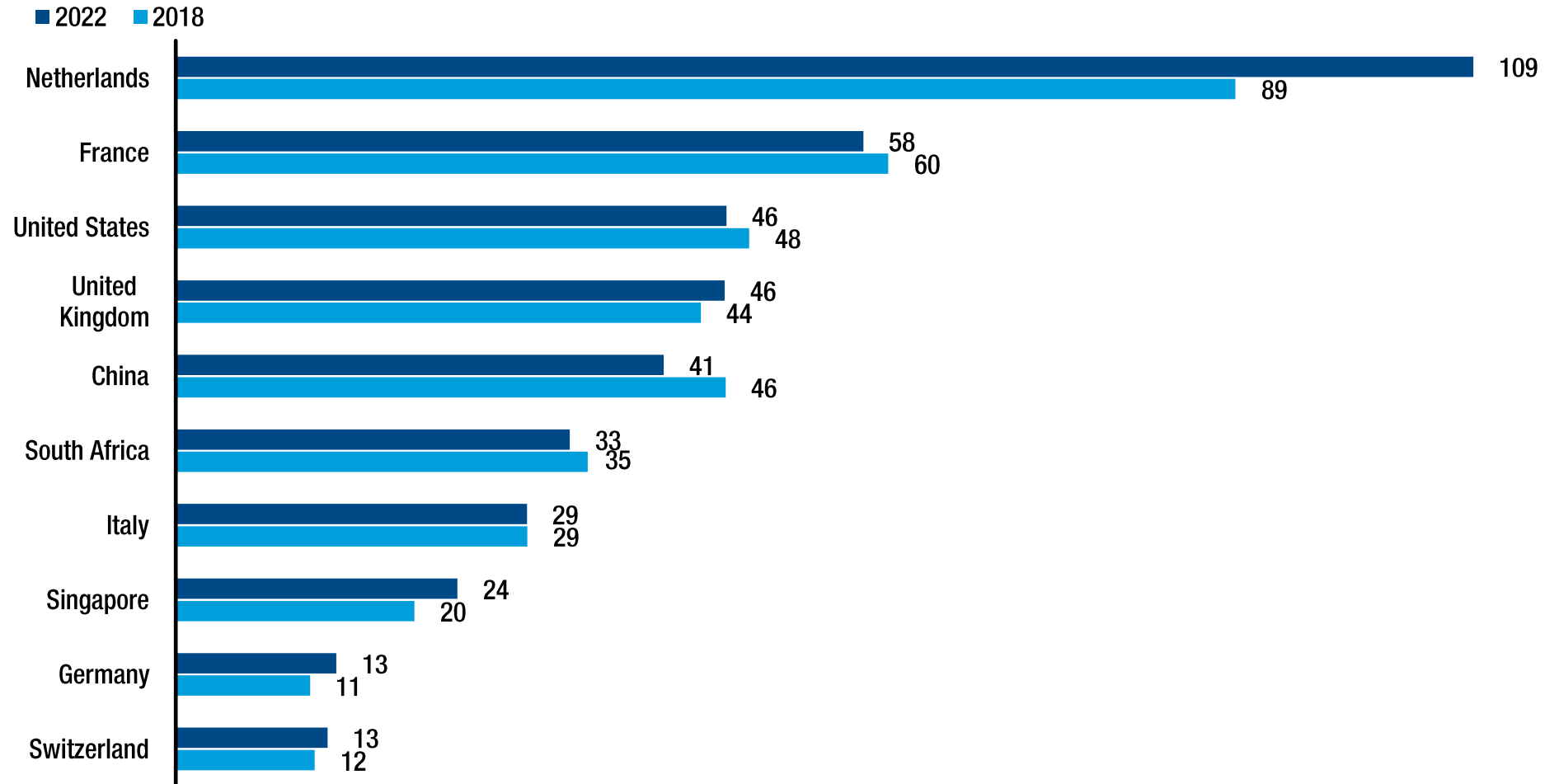
Inflows Africa  
(Billions of dollars and percentage change)





# European investors remain the largest in Africa

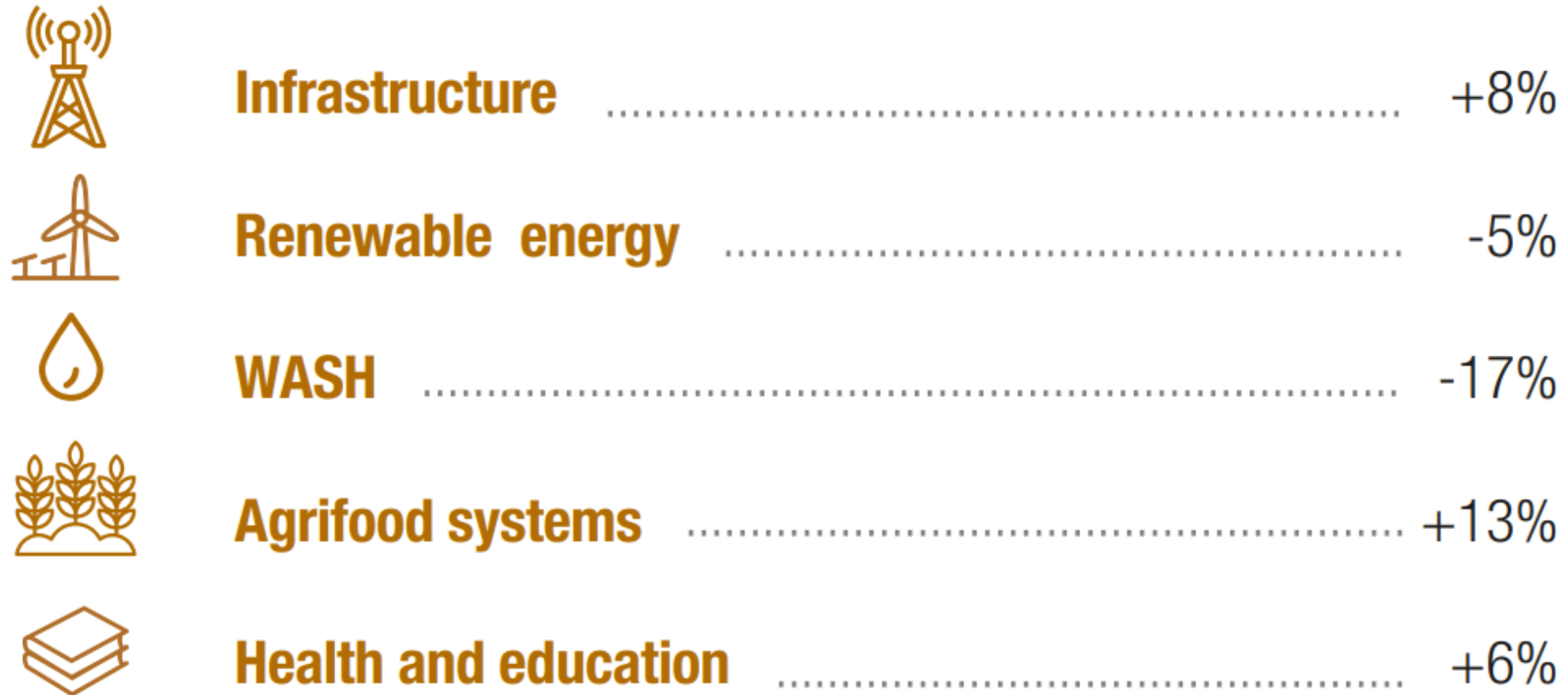
Top 10 investor economies by FDI stock  
(Billions of dollars)



# Investment in Sustainable Development Goals

# International investment in SDG sectors in developing countries declined in 2023

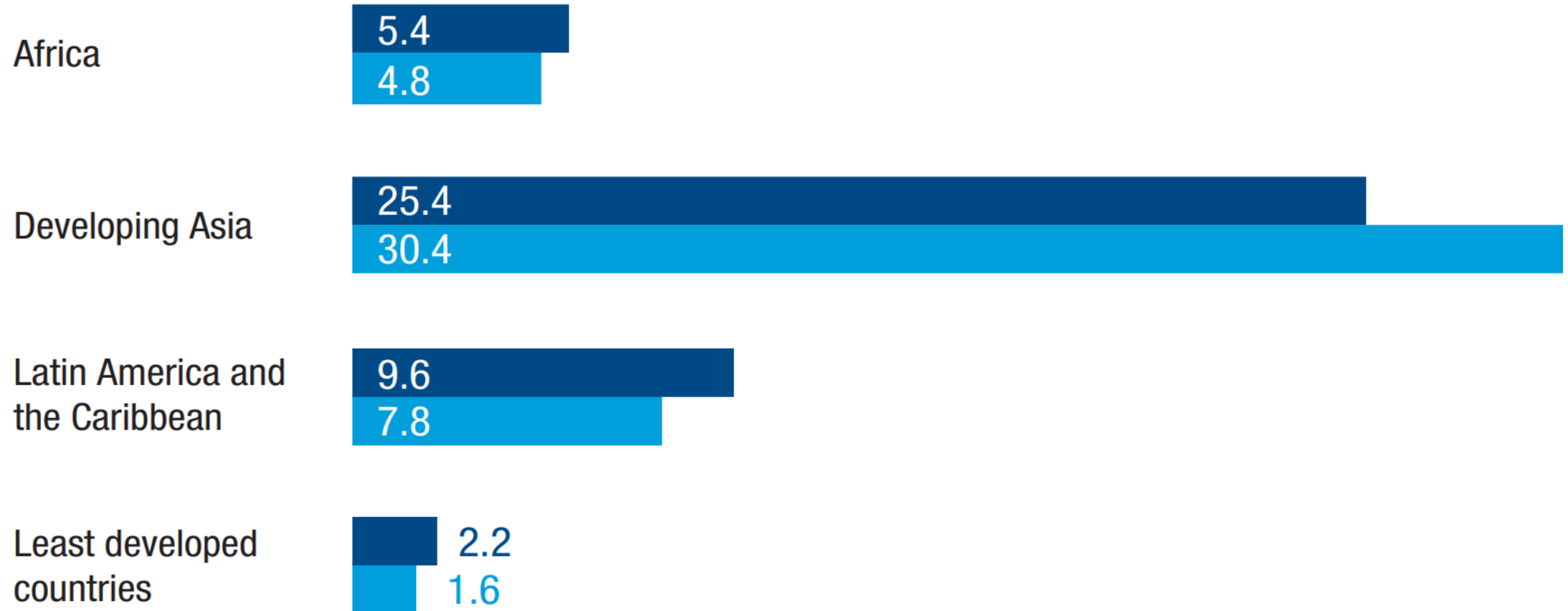
SDG sectors, developing economies  
(Project numbers)



# ➤ Africa attracts below average investment for the SDG goals

Shares in numbers of investment projects, by region and economic grouping  
(Percentage)

■ Share in total projects   ■ Share in Goals projects



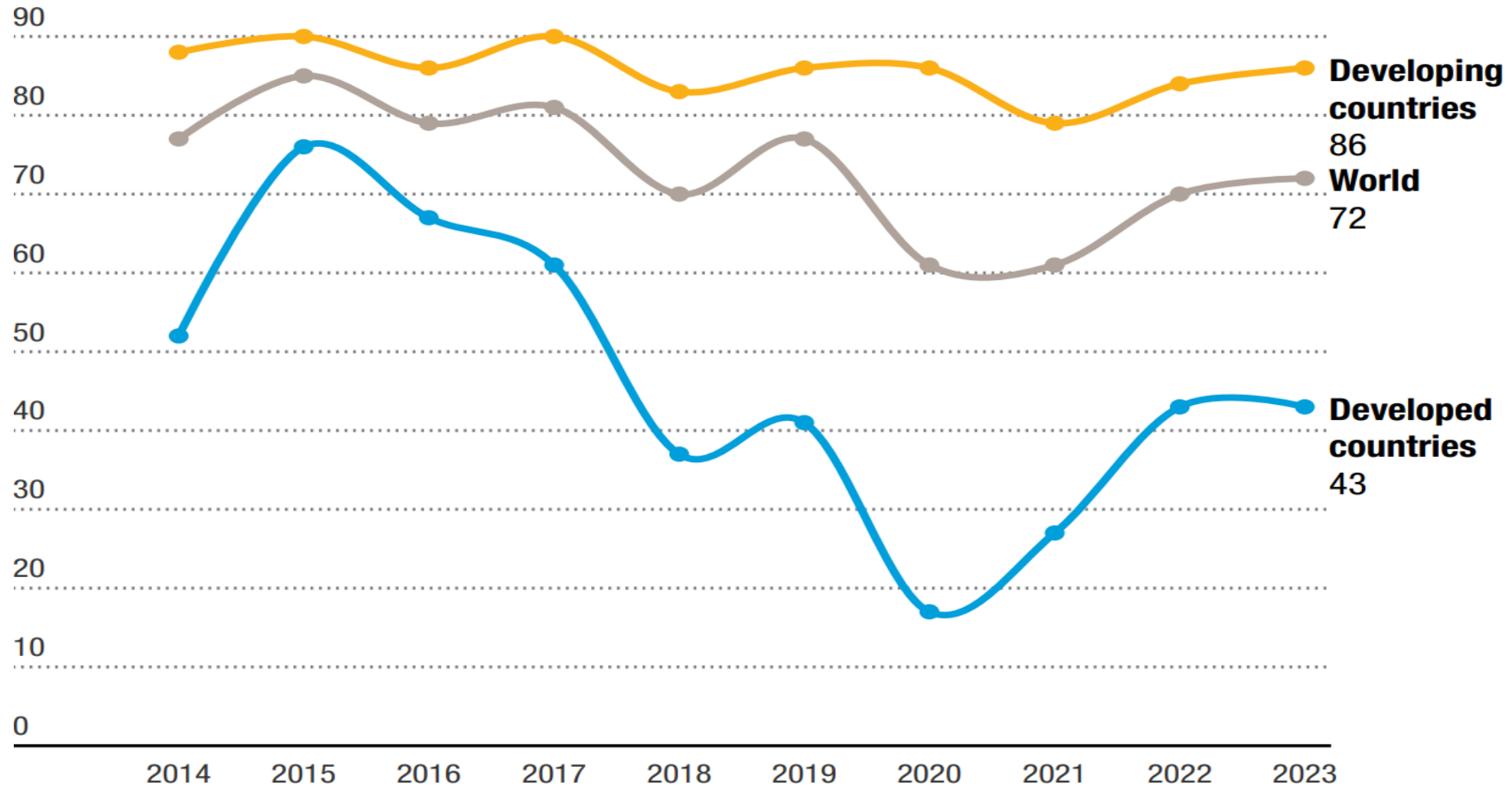
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# Developing countries continue prioritizing investment attraction

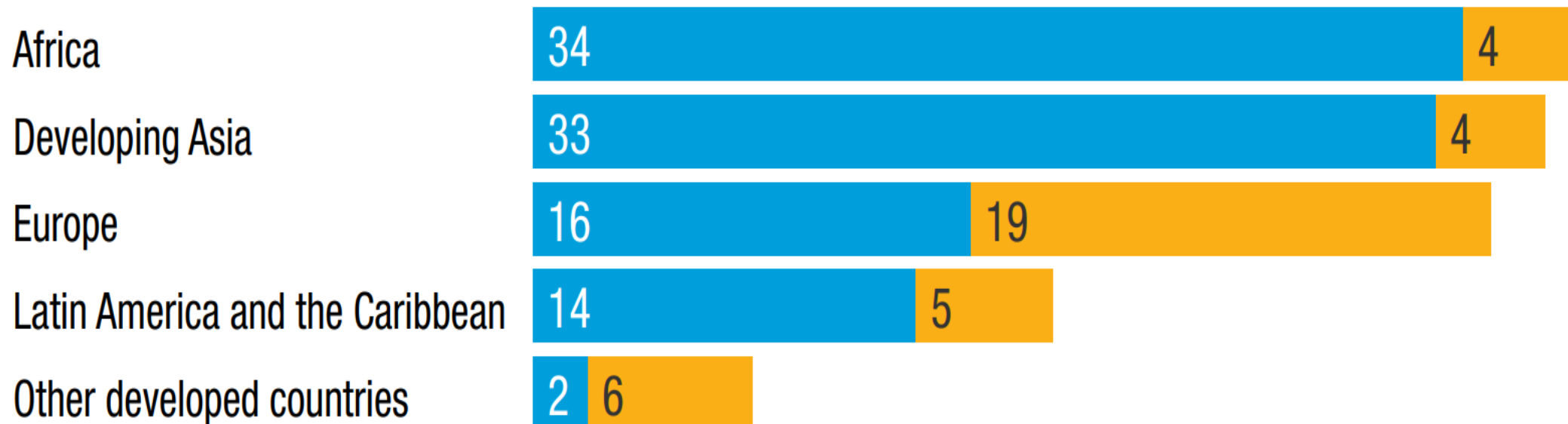
Share of policy measures more favourable to investors in total measures  
(Percentage)



# ➤ Africa and developing Asia adopted the most investment policy measures in 2023

Nature of measures by region, 2023  
(Number)

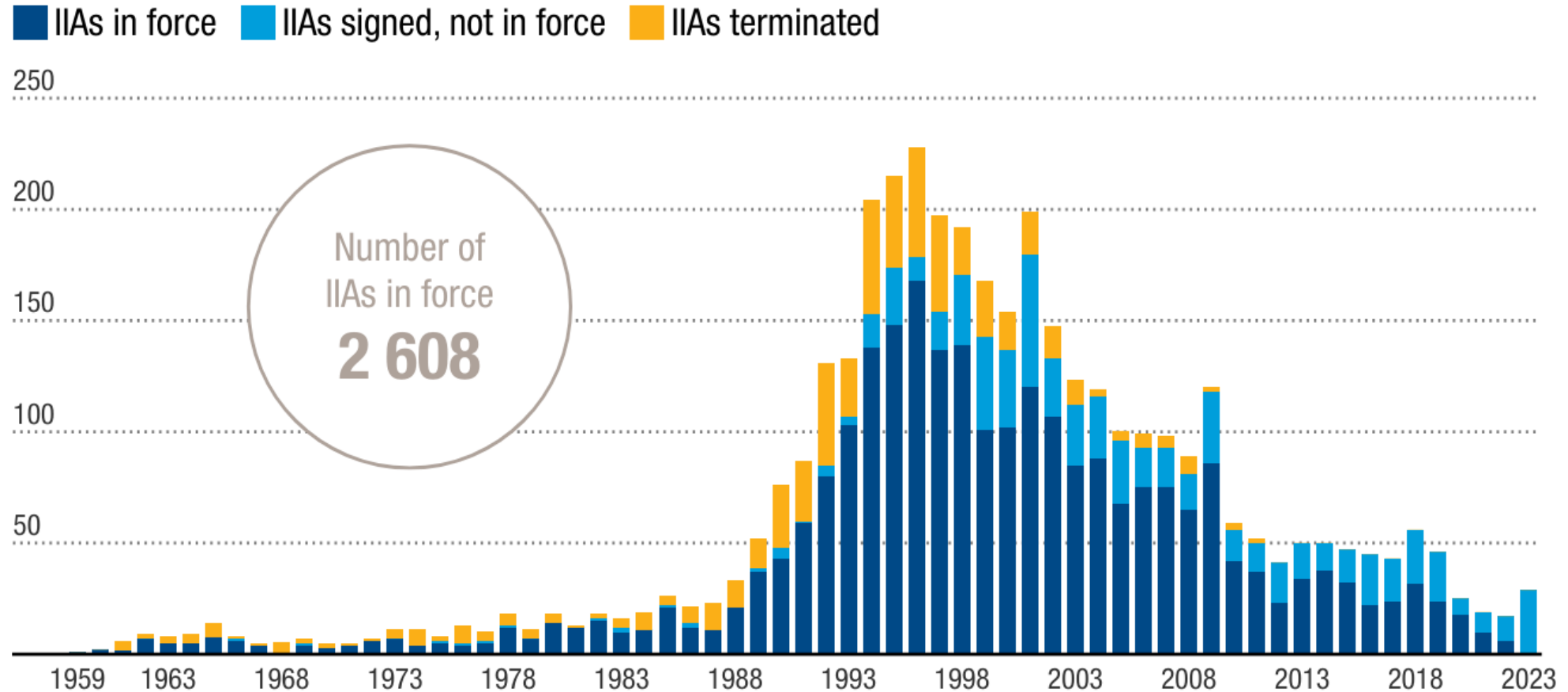
■ More favourable ■ Less favourable





# Agreements from the 1990s and 2000s dominate the international investment agreements universe

Annual number of agreements signed



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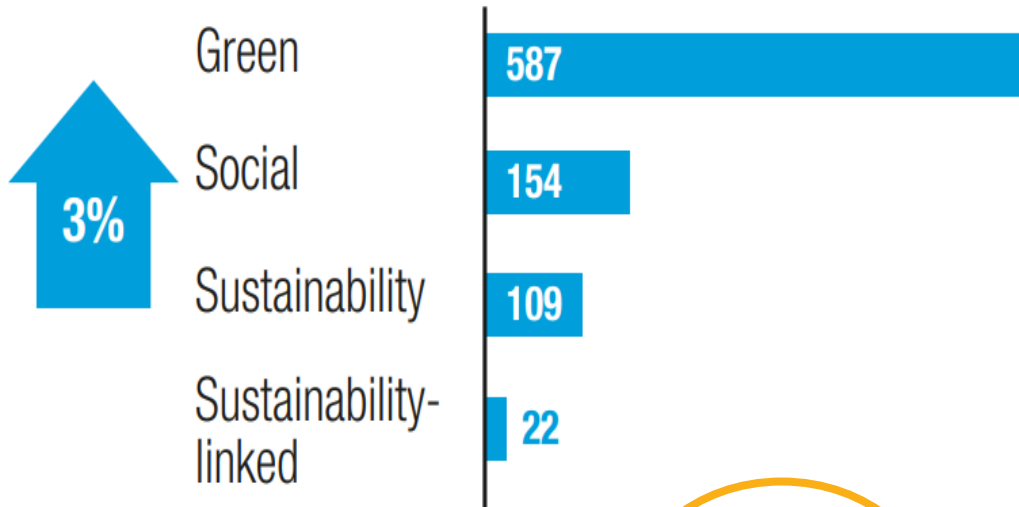
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# Sustainable finance market grew but signs of a slowdown persist

## Sustainable bond market

Global issuance, 2023: **\$872 billion**

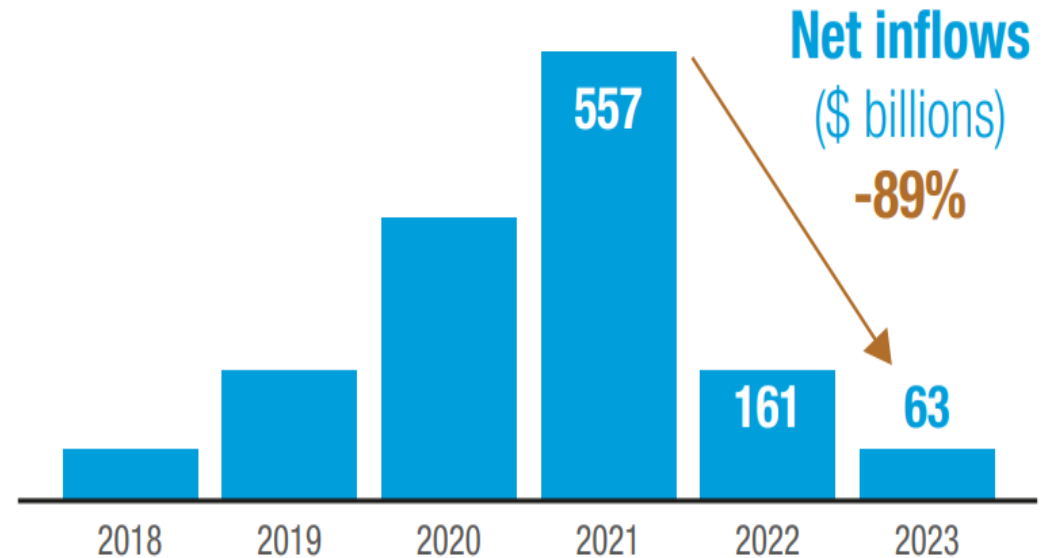


Cumulative issuance since 2018: **\$4 trillion**

## Sustainable fund market

Market value, 2023: **\$3 trillion**

+7%

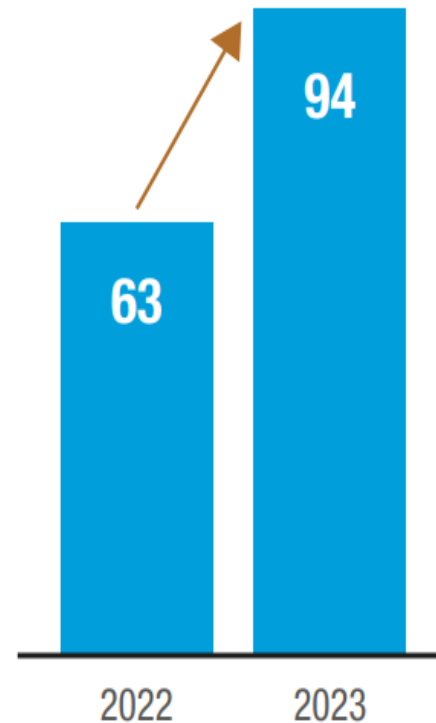


# ➤ Regulations and standards are proliferating; greenwashing remains a challenge

## Sustainable finance regulation

**50%** growth in **sustainable finance measures**, 2023

**Developing economies:**  
60% of new policies



## Sustainability disclosure



**17** countries adopted new **ISSB** standards



**Greenwashing:** only **20%** of “green fund” portfolios are exposed to climate-positive assets

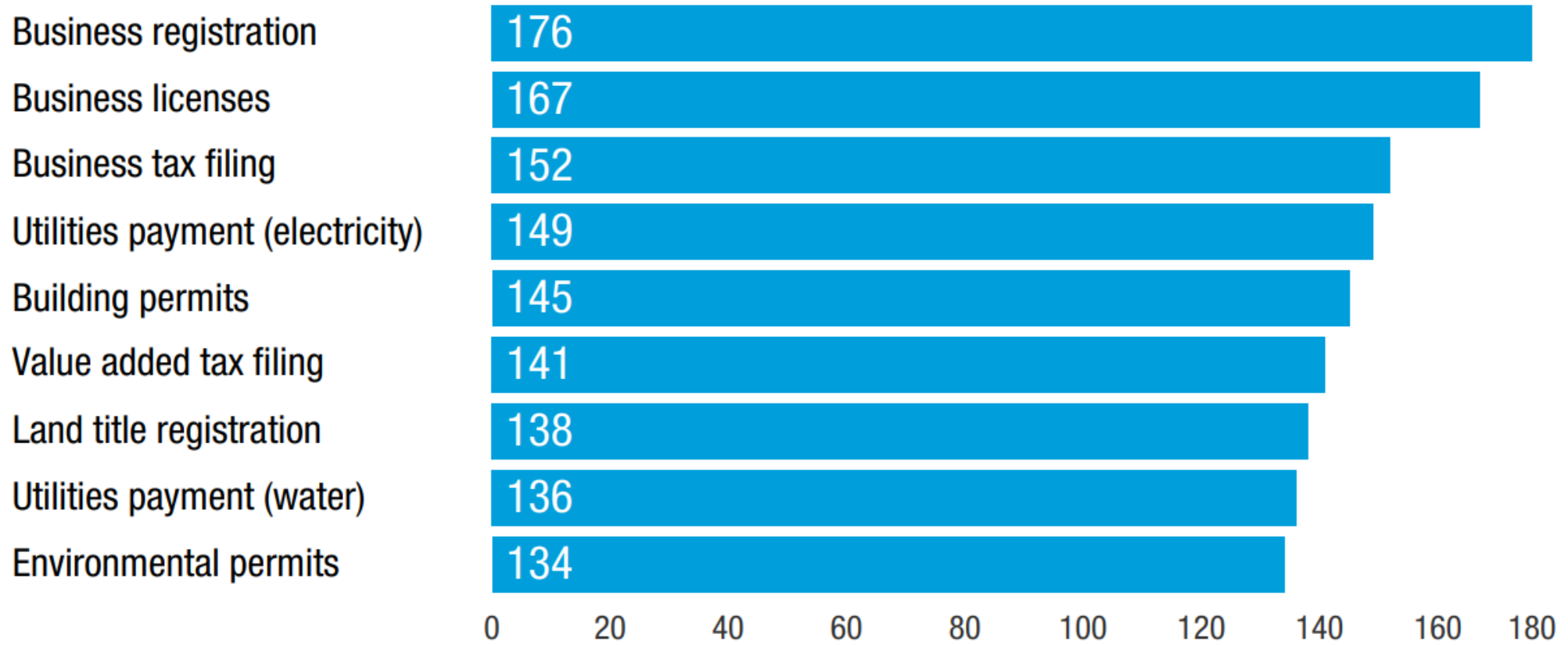
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# Progress on digital investment facilitation worldwide

# Business services are usually the starting point for digital government

Digital government services available to businesses, 2022  
(Number of countries with service)

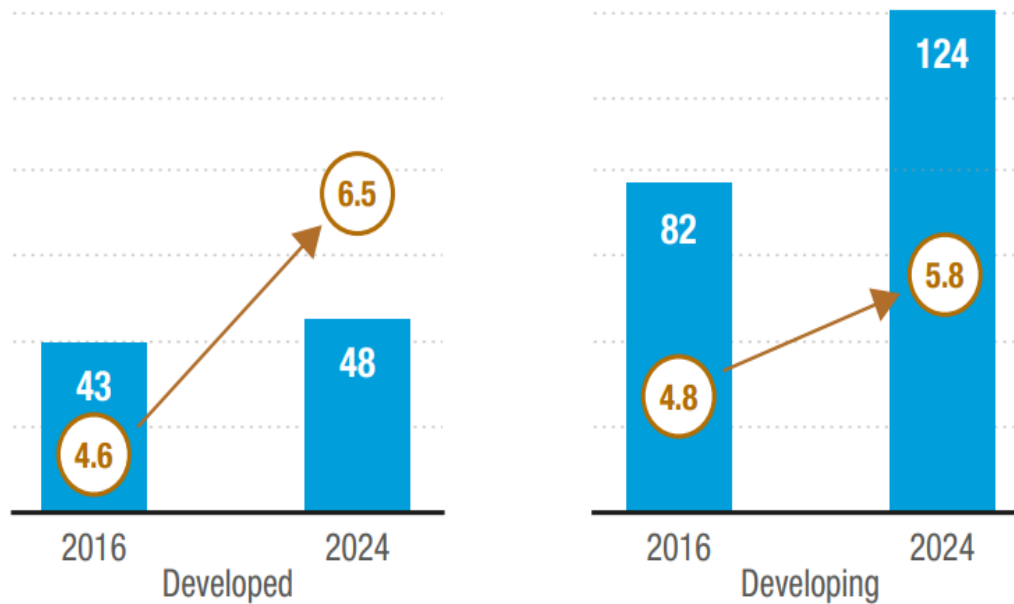


# Investment facilitation portals are growing in number and quality

Digital government services available to businesses, 2022  
(Number of countries with service)

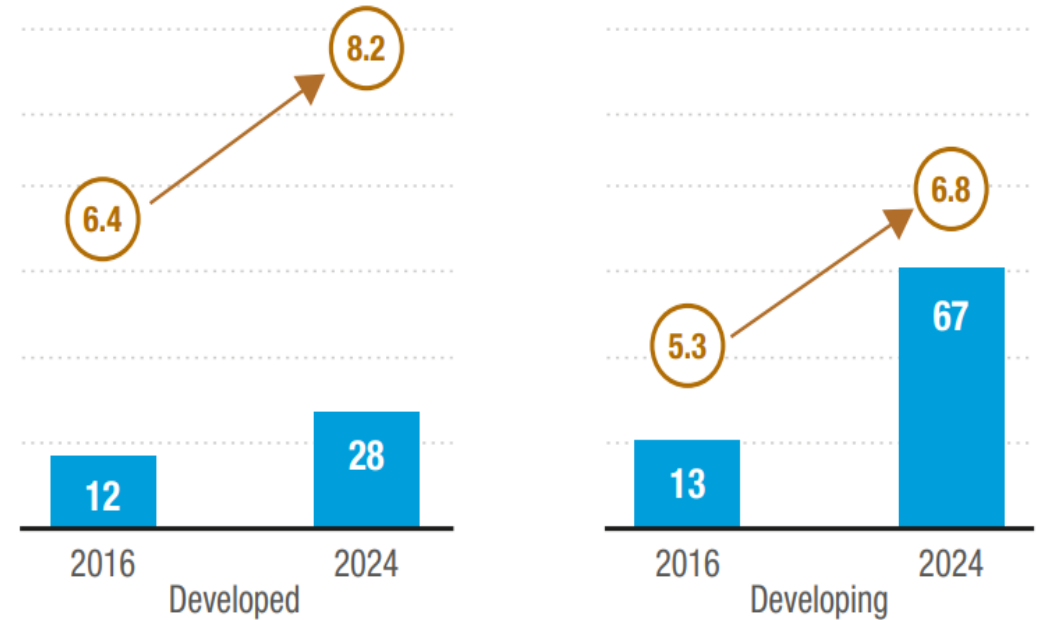
## Information portals

■ Number ○ Quality (1–10)



## Single windows

■ Number ○ Quality (1–10)

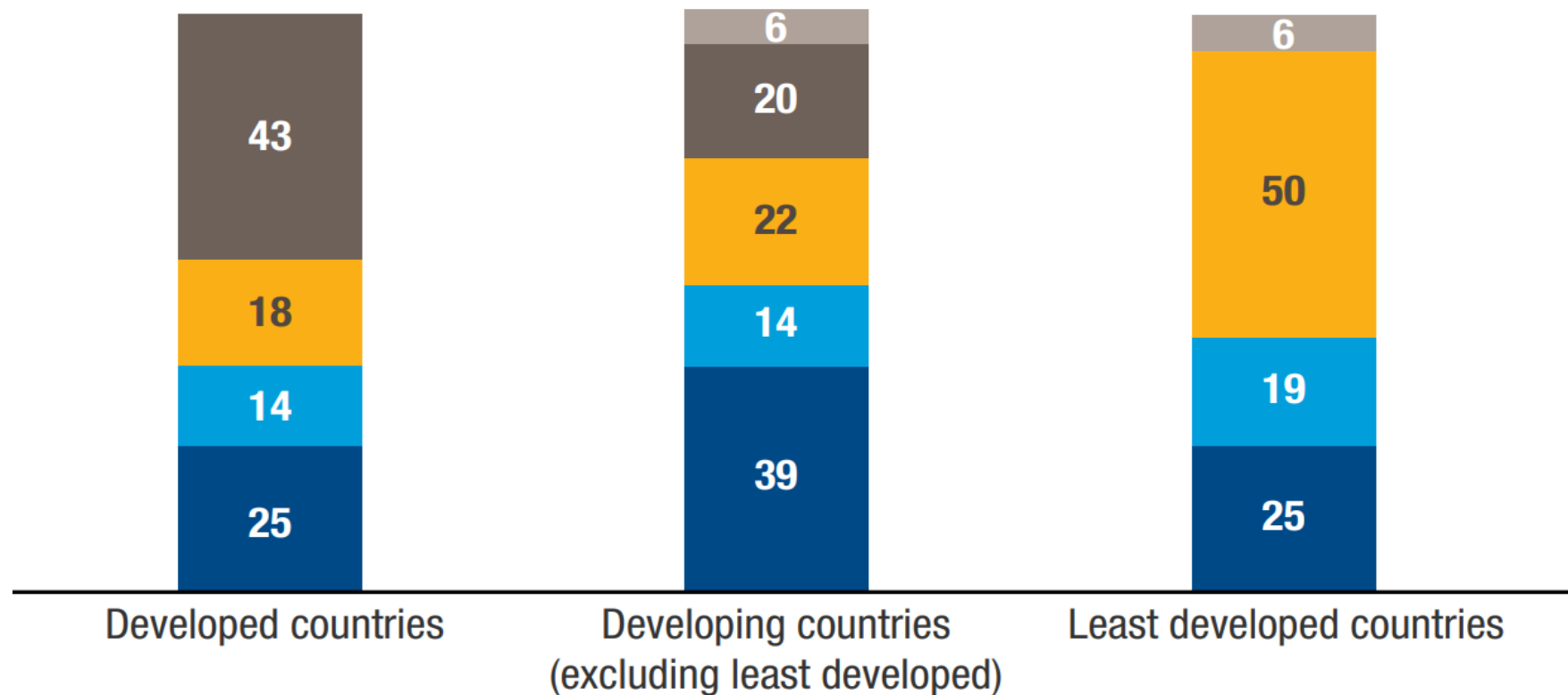




# Single windows in developing countries are often more accessible to foreign investors than those in developed countries

Accessibility to foreigners of online single windows, 2024  
(Percentage)

■ Fully accessible ■ Dedicated services that redirect to other sites  
■ Different forms or procedures ■ Rules-based barriers ■ Technical barriers



# Facilitation in national and international investment policies

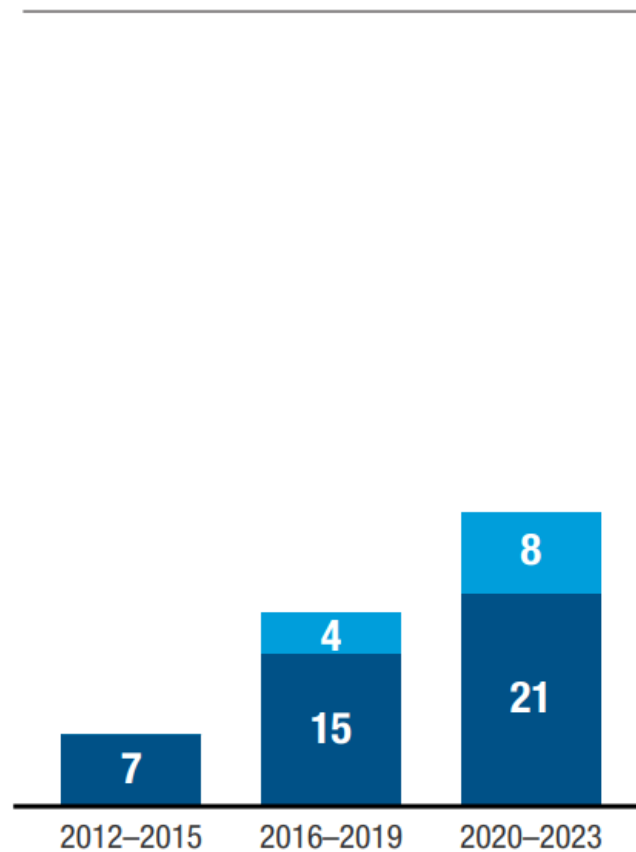


# Digital government tools are increasingly common in investment facilitation measures

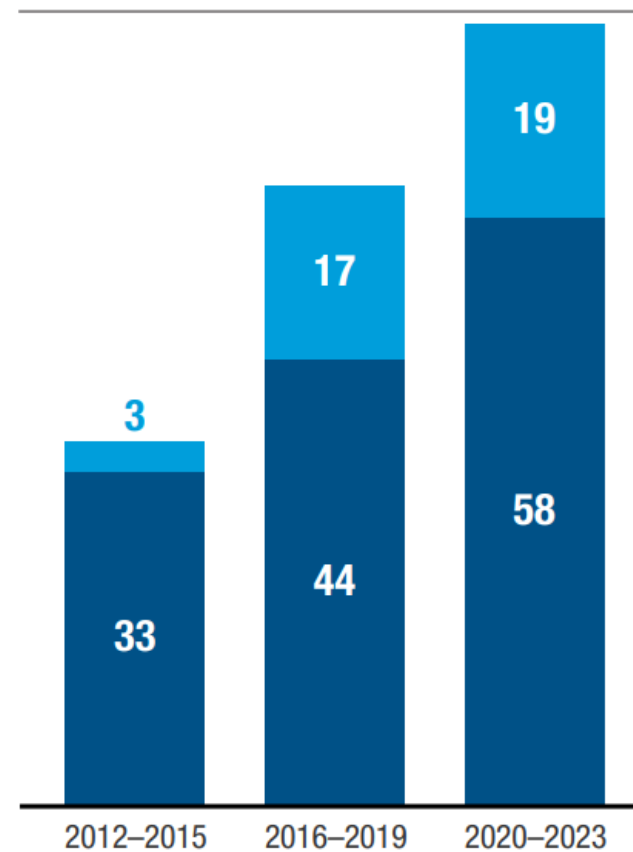
Measures by type and period of adoption  
(Number)

■ Non-digital ■ Digital

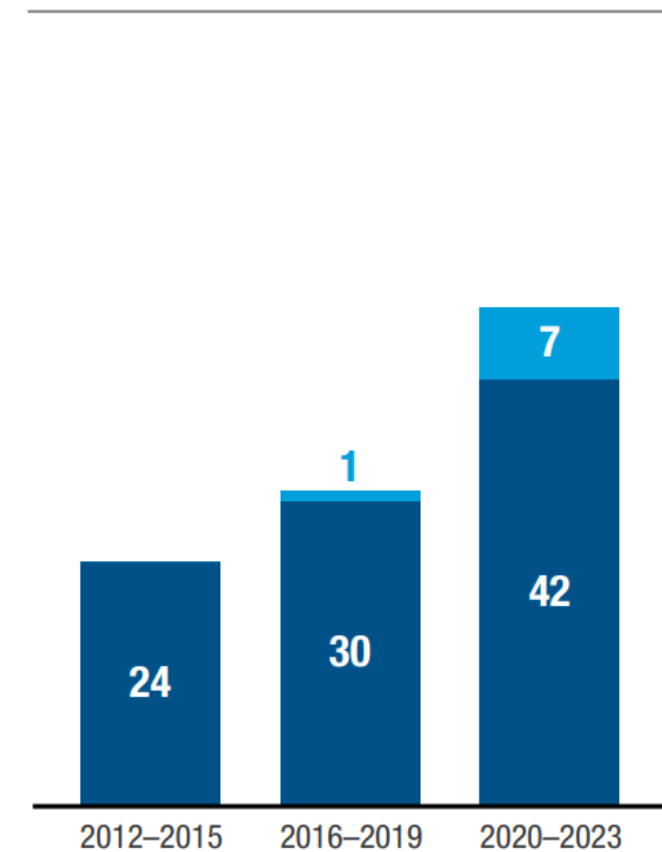
a. Transparency



b. Streamlining



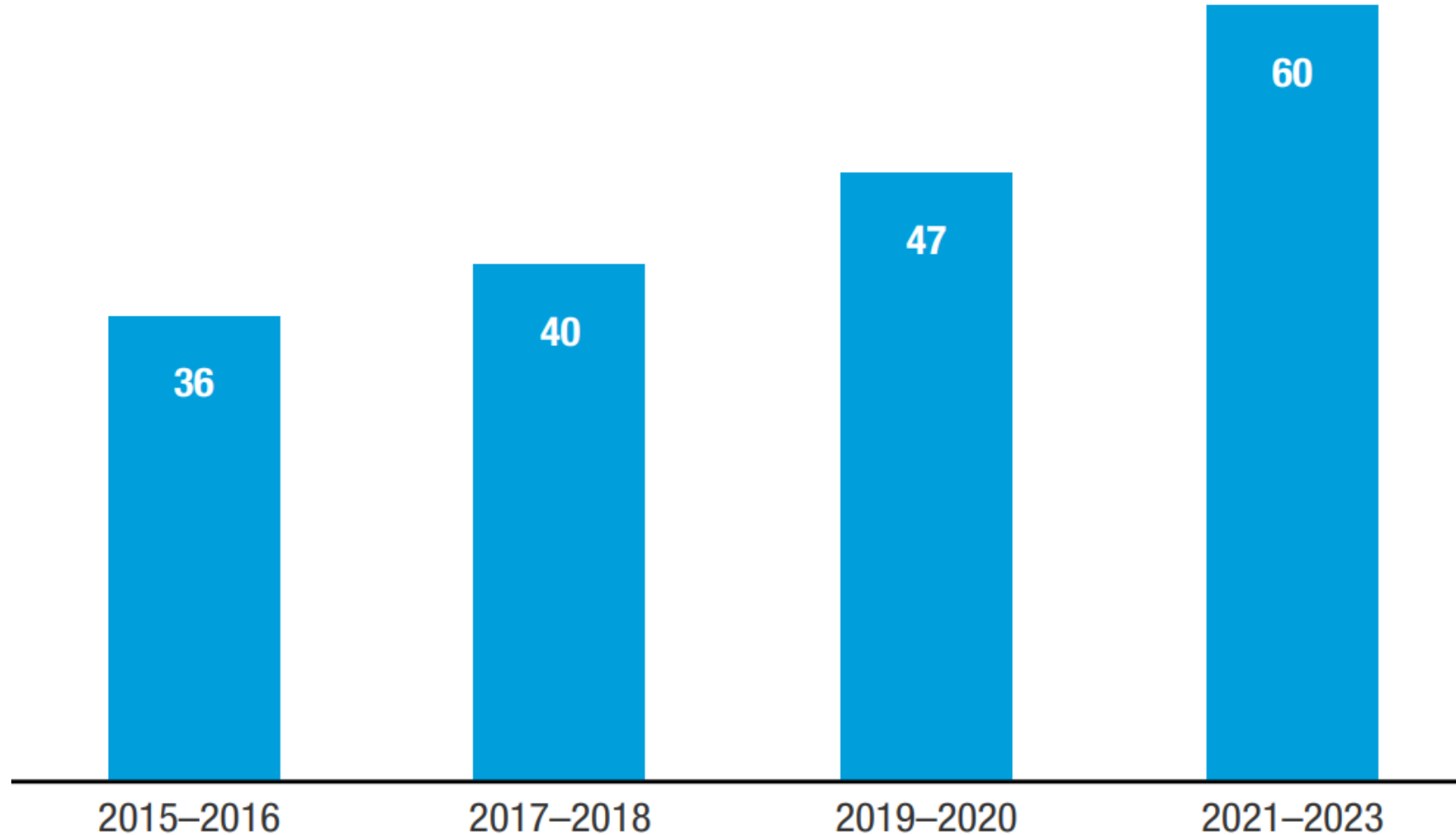
c. Facilitation services





# IIAs increasingly encourage digitalization

Facilitation provisions in IIAs that refer to digital tools  
(Percentage)

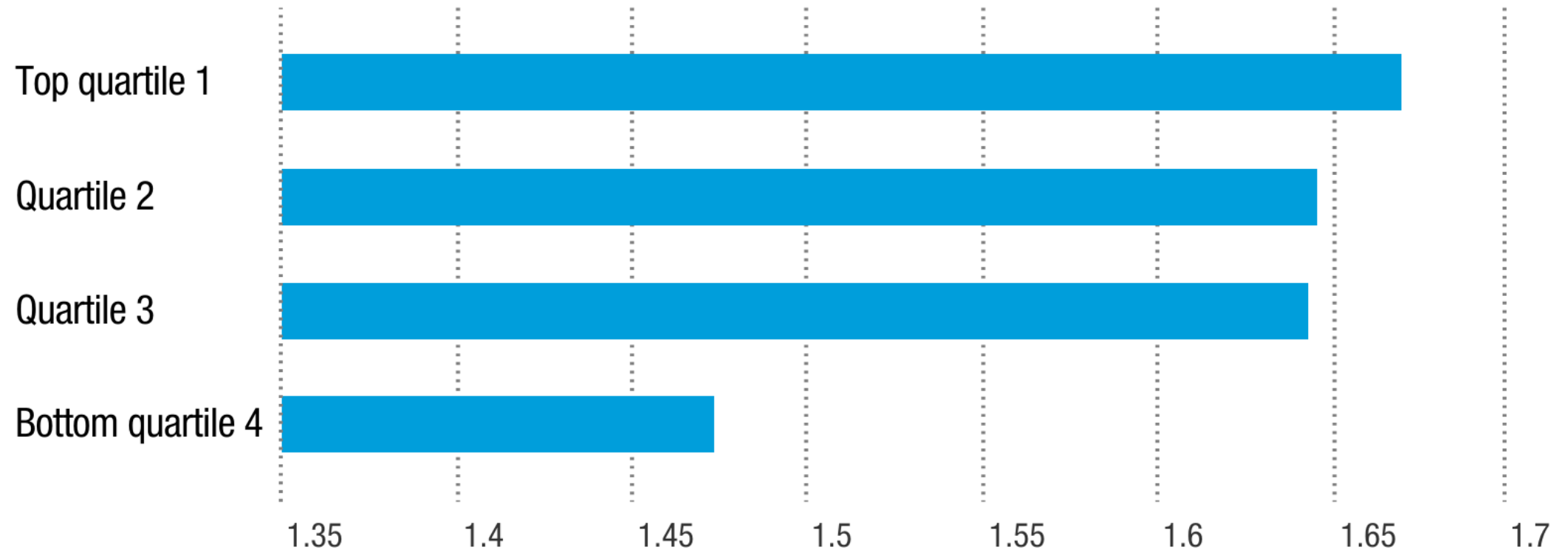


# **Impact of investment facilitation and digital government**



# Digital investment facilitation is associated with higher institutional quality

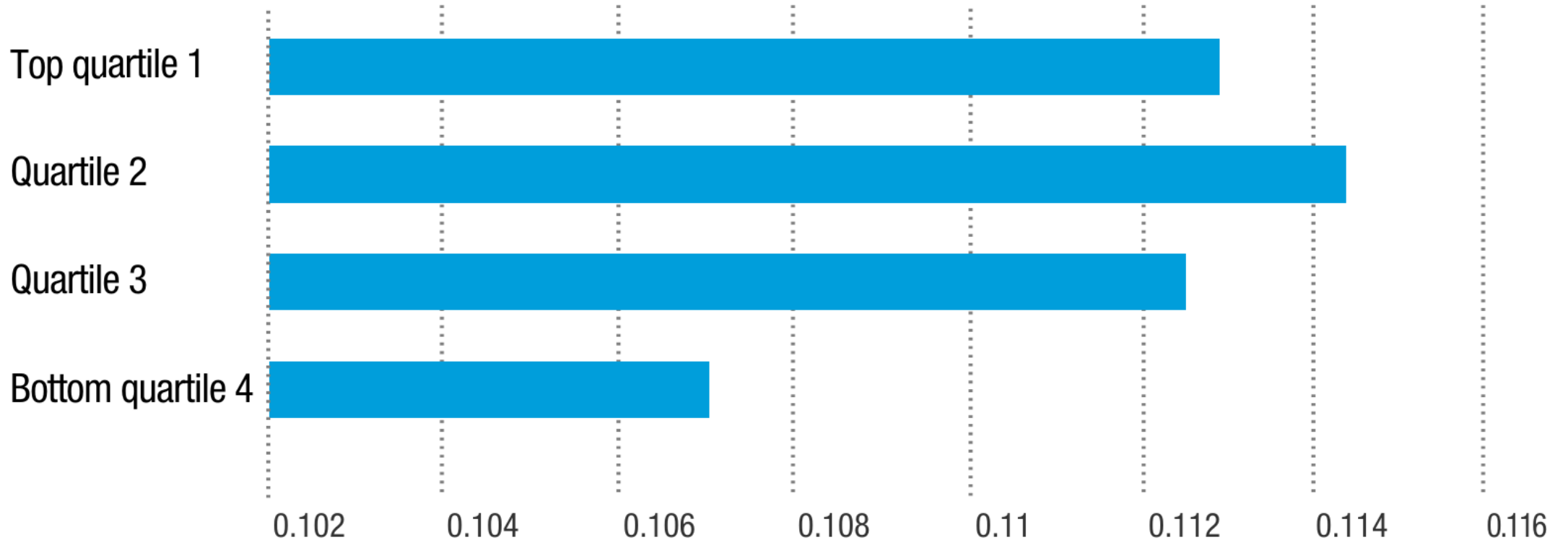
Institutional quality index by GER quartile, developing countries, 2022





# Digital investment facilitation is associated with higher rates of business creation

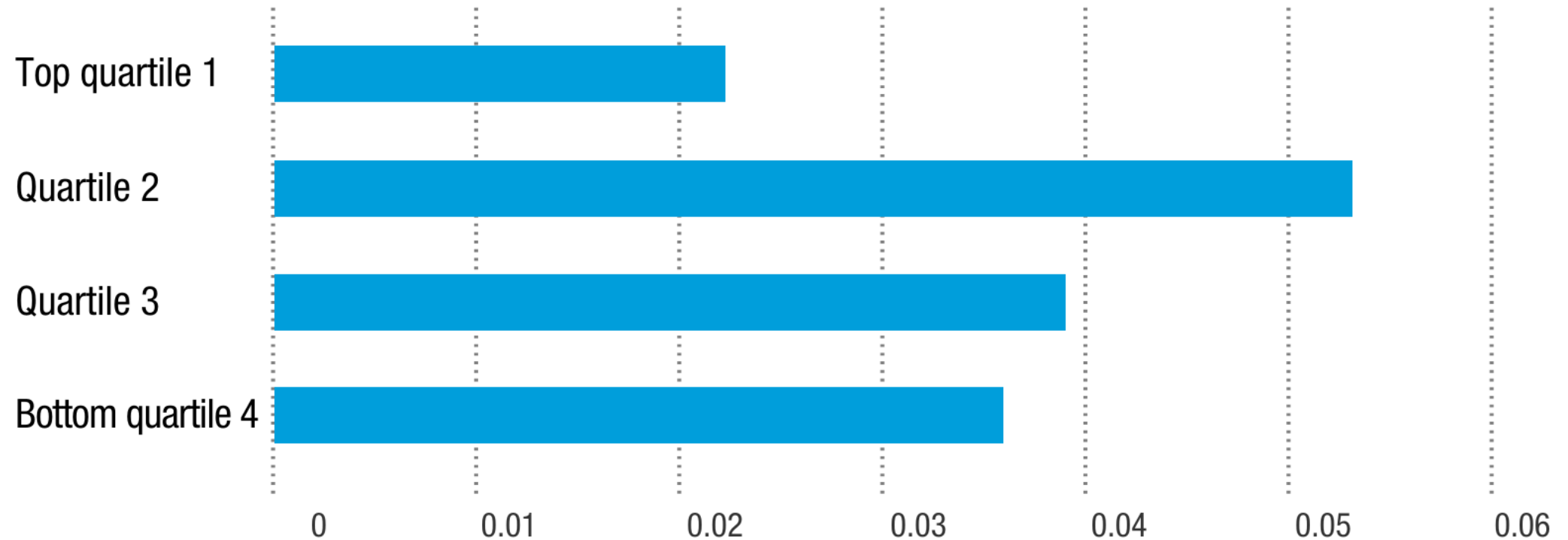
New business index by GER quartile, developing economies, 2016-2022





# Digital investment facilitation does not automatically lead to more FDI

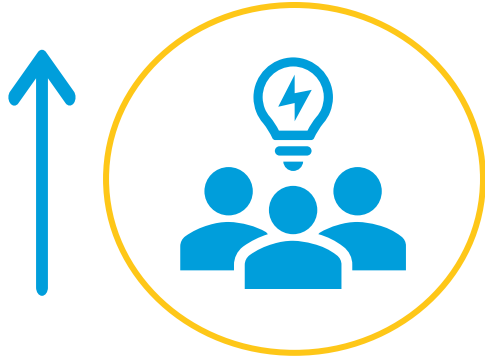
Inward FDI as a percentage of GDP by GER quartiles, developing countries, average 2021-2023





# ➤ Digitalization has broad benefits

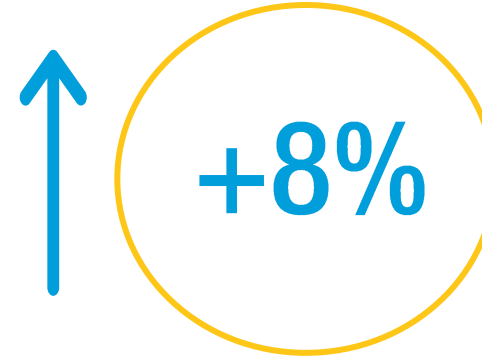
Higher business creation rates



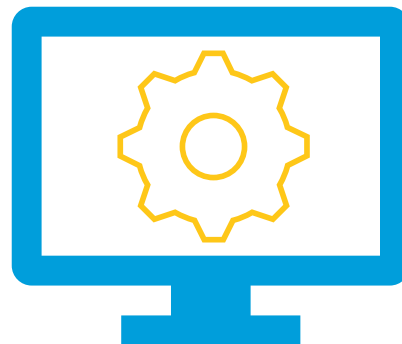
Higher institutional quality



Higher FDI flows



Countries with better digital government solutions...



## **Conclusions and policy implications**

# ➤ Conclusions and policy implications



- ▶ Developing countries can be at an advantage in establishing **digital government tools** for business and investment facilitation.



- ▶ Governments should adopt a **comprehensive approach** to digital investment facilitation, avoiding dedicated processes solely for investment authorization.



- ▶ International agreements can be **catalyst** not only for investment facilitation but also for digital tools for that purpose.

# Thank you

