



UNCTAD XIII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

DOHA - QATAR 21-26 APRIL 2012



WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM

WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM 2012:

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

20-23 APRIL 2012

BACKGROUND

Today's international investment landscape is characterized by developments that are both promising and challenging. Strong growth poles in the South are changing that landscape in fundamental ways, including through the emergence of new home countries. At the same time, the weak and uneven recovery in flows of foreign direct investment since the financial crisis of 2008 and the lack of investment in productive sectors in many poor countries are particularly worrisome at a time when the world is striving to deal with food shortages, energy insecurity and climate-change related challenges, and when economic and social gaps remain large and, in many cases, persistent. The poor and marginalized are being particularly affected.

Against this background, it is of particular importance to maximize the sustainable development contribution of international investment. There is a need for a holistic and systemic approach to examining the universe of national and international investment policies and mainstreaming the development dimension into investment policy regimes.

Today, global economic governance continues to face a series of gaps and shortcomings along several fronts, particularly in the area of international investment. The World Investment Forum seeks to address some of those by establishing a unique global platform to discuss the investment-development nexus at the highest policymaking level.

The Forum provides an opportunity to (a) identify solutions to key and emerging global investment-development issues; (b) monitor international investment rules and investment relations and (c) foster coherence of investment policies with trade and finance policies.

The Forum brings together all stakeholders of the global investment community, including Heads of State and government ministers, international investors, heads of investment promotion agencies, treaty negotiators, investment lawyers, international location experts, heads of international organizations, representatives of civil society and of the international media, and professors of international business, economics and law.

The last Forum, which took place in China in 2010, attracted more than 1,800 high-level participants from 120 countries, including 9 Heads of State, 79 government ministers, 16 heads of international organizations, 116 senior business executives and 250 global media representatives.

The 2012 Forum will consist of several major events. Among them are the following:

- World Investment Forum Grand Opening and Welcome Banquet and Investment Promotion Awards Ceremony;
- World Leaders Investment Summit;
- Ministerial Round Table on Investment and Enterprise Policies;
- Sovereign Wealth Fund Round Table;
- Tenth meeting of the Investment Advisory Council;
- 2012 International Investment Agreements Conference;
- High-level Investment Promotion Conference 2012;
- High-level Meeting on International Accounting and Reporting;
- Empretec Women in Business Awards Ceremony;
- Global Investment Promotion Compact.

PURPOSE

The objective of the Forum is to formulate new investment strategies and partnerships for the new phase of globalization, with a focus on investing in sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Forum is expected to boost investment in the real economy so as to restart the engine of growth and generate employment in the wake of the global economic crisis. It will address the investment challenges and opportunities arising from the changing global economic landscape.

OUTCOME

The Forum's main events all seek to promote international cooperation and to make investment work for sustainable development, thereby maintaining and promoting further international investment flows. Each event deals with a different and pressing issue on the international investment agenda, and will thus catalyse action on fostering investment relations. By bringing together government and business leaders, policymakers and other investment stakeholders, the Forum has been building a consensus-led approach to problems facing the global economy today.

The Forum also provides many opportunities for networking and making investment connections that could lead to concrete business partnerships and development projects.

ORGANIZATION

The World Investment Forum is being organized by the Division on Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD (www.unctad.org/diae) in cooperation with the Government of Qatar. The Forum also leverages many partnerships with international organizations, the private sector, investment promotion agencies and the global media.

AGENDA

Friday, 20 April to Monday, 23 April, 2012

Full event information is available on our website: <http://www.unctad-worldinvestmentforum.org>.

Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre

DOCUMENTS

All information relating to documentation, the programme, updates and speakers can be accessed on our website:

<http://www.unctad-worldinvestmentforum.org>.

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