FDI Qualities: Aligning Investment Frameworks for Green Growth

Fourth Roundtable on Investment and Sustainable Development

AGENDA

2 November 2021
13:30-15:30 CET (virtual event)
Background

Adverse environmental developments are among the gravest global threats of current times. A global economy reliant on fossil fuels and the resulting rising greenhouse gas emissions, now 60% higher than their 1990 level, are creating drastic changes to the climate, including more frequent and extreme weather events, land degradation, ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss. Climate change and the resulting migration pressures and threats to food and health security are at the forefront of global efforts to sustain the planet. The landmark agreement, signed in Paris in 2015 by 190 countries to address these mounting challenges, is being discussed today at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference with new impetus to combat climate change and accelerate actions and investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future.

The climate crisis has serious financial repercussions, including disaster-related damage costs that amount to hundreds of billions of dollars, annually. Climate change mitigation and adaptation will require an estimated USD 7 trillion per year worth of public and private investments to meet global infrastructure development needs and climate objectives through 2030. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, government efforts to support economic recovery are essential but should not undermine actions to limit the climate crisis. Stimulus measures and policy responses must be aligned with ambitions on climate change, biodiversity and wider environmental protection. The window of opportunity for climate action is closing fast and short-term economic measures will have a significant impact on the ability to meet global goals.

Uncertainty and unpredictability are among the greatest barriers to green investment. Too often the reason governments fail to attract green investment is due to the lack of an enabling climate for investment. Green investors are no different than any other in requiring a stable, predictable, and transparent investment environment in which to identify bankable projects. Thus, efforts to mobilise green investment will fail to meet their intended target unless governments ensure a regulatory climate that provides investors with fair treatment and confidence in the rule of law.

At the same time, openness, stability and fair treatment are not enough to channel private investment towards green growth and decarbonisation objectives. The OECD Policy Framework for Investment and its chapter on Green Growth provide insights on global good practices to create a regulatory framework conducive to green investment. Building on the PFI, and as part of its FDI Qualities Initiative, the OECD is currently investigating the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the transition to low-carbon economies, and developing a policy toolkit designed to guide governments in their efforts to attract FDI that contributes to decarbonisation. Private sector incentives and home and host country policies, including responsible business conduct (RBC) play a critical role in realising this potential.

Objectives

The objective of this high-level panel discussion is to stress the importance of creating a favourable environment for investment in order to support decarbonisation and green growth, and to highlight the value of the OECD Policy Framework for Investment and FDI Qualities Initiative in guiding governments through necessary reforms and effective policy interventions. High-level policymakers that have worked closely with the OECD on improving the investment climate for green growth will share the experiences of their countries on how they have benefited from targeted reforms and how to strengthen the link between investment and climate policies and institutions. Distinguished speakers from private sector, academia and civil society will further contribute their views and insights on addressing the many challenges in creating a favourable environment for investments aiming to promote green growth and advance on their low-carbon objectives.

Registration

Please register online at your earliest convenience and you will receive an email with a link to join the meeting.
Contacts

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Agenda

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Opening remarks
- **Mathias Cormann**, Secretary General, OECD

Keynote Address
- **Jose Fernandez**, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, USA
- **Felix Mutati**, Minister of Science and Technology, Zambia

Moderator
- **Ana Novik**, Head of Investment Division, OECD

Panellists
- **Debora Revoltella**, Director of the Economic Department, European Investment Bank
- **Chutintorn Gongsaekdi**, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- **Jorge Sequeira**, Managing Director, CINDE, Costa Rica
- **Brigitta Huckestein**, Senior Manager for Energy & Climate Policy, BASF
- **Karsten Löffler**, Head of Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management
- **Lisa Sachs**, Director, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

Closing remarks
- **Manfred Schekulin**, Chair, OECD Investment Committee