

Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development

February 2019

Background: 2017 up to Buenos Aires (MC11)

- April 2017, 'Friends of Investment Facilitation for Development (**FIFD**)
- Informal Dialogue on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO (six meetings)
- Dynamic links **investment, trade and development.**
- Many Members undertaking wide-ranging reforms at the **national, bilateral**, as well as **regional** level.
- Need for **closer international cooperation** for facilitating cross border investment.
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What is Investment Facilitation? – the focus of IF is to enhance the efficacy of investment policies (I)

- Transparent, efficient, investment-friendly business climate.
- Transparency and availability of information.
- Speeding up and streamlining administrative procedures.
- Communication throughout the investment cycle.
- Smooth coordination among different government agencies.
- Constructive relations with stakeholders.
- Promoting best IF practices.

What is Investment Facilitation? – the focus of IF is to enhance the efficacy of investment policies (II)

Examples

- Publication of measures
- Prior comment and consultation before entry into force
- Focal/enquiry point
- Single window for administration of procedures and requirements
- Appeals and reviews of decisions
- Ombudsperson

STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS IN 2018

- Identification of the possible elements.
- Eight meetings organized thematically.
- Guiding questions, background non-papers, presentations by experts (ie. ITC, OECD, UNCTAD World Bank).
- Domestic and regional experiences.
- 'Checklist' of issues raised by Members.

TRANSPARENCY OPENNESS AND INCLUSIVITY

- Meetings open to all Members.
- Attendance/participation without prejudice to position on the joint initiative.
- Full transparency and access to the documents.
(Members´ section of the WTO website)
- Regular reports to the entire Membership.
- Continuous outreach.

ELEMENTS OF INTEREST RAISED 2018 (I)

Transparency and predictability of investment measures

- Publication and availability of measures and information
- Notification to WTO
- Enquiry points
- Specific exceptions applicable to transparency requirements

ELEMENTS OF INTEREST RAISED 2018 (II)

- Use of ICT (e-government)
- One stop shop/single window types of mechanisms
- Focal point/contact point/ombudsperson types of mechanisms

Elements aimed at enhancing international cooperation, information sharing, the exchange of best practices

- International cooperation among Members, including through their competent authorities
- International cooperation among Members at the multilateral level on investment facilitation-related matters, including through a WTO Committee

ELEMENTS OF INTEREST RAISED 2018 (III)

Development dimension (cross-cutting issue)

- Consideration of challenges faced by developing countries and especially LDCs
- Sharing of best practices and information on facilitating FDI to identify global benchmarks
- Special and differential treatment
- Technical assistance and capacity building

Other cross-cutting issues

- Domestic institutional arrangements to enhance communication and coordination among relevant authorities at different levels of government
- Scope of the multilateral framework; non-discrimination; best-endeavours language; challenges faced by MSMEs etc.

NEXT STEPS (January-July 2019)

- Focus on developing the possible elements through example-based discussions.
- Members' practices and/or agreements, or any other text suggestions.
- non-attributable informal summary of each meeting, as well as a compendium of the examples.

