

DRAFT AGENDA



Webinar on International Investment Agreements: Challenges and policy options for Egypt

3 June 2021 (15:00-17:30 Cairo/Paris time)
Webinar



Background

The government of Egypt has put strong emphasis on reforming its investment legislation and regulations. International investment treaties are another key component of Egypt's investment policy framework. Egypt has signed investment treaties with a diverse set of economies both in terms of size and geography, the majority of which (77 BITs) were signed between 1990 and 2005. Most of international investment treaties (IIAs) in force today have been concluded with partners in Europe and Asia/Oceania. Almost one third of the total BITs that Egypt has signed are with African states but very few of these treaties appear to be in force.

In recent years, numerous governments have revised their approaches to negotiating new investment treaties. For instance, some governments have negotiated treaty amendments or joint interpretations with existing treaty partners to address individual treaties but these efforts can require significant time and resources. Ongoing multilateral initiatives at UNCITRAL and ICSID to consider possible reforms are primarily technical and narrow in scope (focussing on investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and ICSID's procedural rules, respectively). Multilateral negotiations on possible reforms for individual treaties like the OIC Agreement and the Energy Charter Treaty concern only those countries that are parties to those agreements.

Governments at the OECD also launched a new work programme in March 2021 on investment treaty policy – looking at both the future of investment treaties and reform options for older treaties – that will take stock of possible reforms options across a broader group of countries.

Objectives of the webinar

The objective of this workshop is to provide Egypt with:

- the latest global developments in IIAs and international investment trends;
- an analysis of good practices in IIAs provisions based on Egyptian IIA network of BITs;
- a better understanding of the correlation between reforming the dispute settlement mechanisms and attraction of FDI, and
- policy considerations to assist Egypt in its consideration of treaty reform options.

Practical information

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdO2spz4qGtRrQkZI1lIG8UX3TxRjxePE>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For further inquiries, please contact Alin Horj (Alin.Horj@oecd.org) and Nadia Kameledine (Nadia.Kameledine@oecd.org).

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Thursday, 3 June 2021

15:00 – 15:10 Opening remarks

- **Mr. Amr Noureldin** - Legal advisor to the CEO of GAFI

15:10 – 17:30 Recent developments IIAs and analysis of provisions focusing on government and investors rights and obligations

This session will discuss recent developments International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and analyse key IIAs provisions related to government and investors rights and obligations, linking to the recently completed Investment Policy Review of Egypt and based on Egyptian IIA network of BITs. It will also provide examples of provisions used by other countries to support future drafting. This session aims to be interactive and based on discussions on how to improve relevant key provisions.

Moderator

- **Alin Horj**, Policy Analyst | Middle East and Africa Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

Speakers

- **Ana Novik**, Head, Investment Division | Directorate for Enterprise and Financial Affairs, OECD
- **Roberto Echandi**, Lead Trade Specialist | Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment, World Bank Group
- **Filippo Fontanelli**, Senior Lecturer in International Economic Law | University of Edinburgh
- **Rodrigo Polanco**, Senior Lecturer and Researcher | World Trade Institute and University of Bern

Q&A

Conclusion and way forward
