

National WORKSHOP

for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Investment Facilitation for Development agreement

Riyadh, 11-12 November 2025 (2 days)

# PROGRAMME (Draft, version 30 September 2025)

## Objectives:

## Enhance understanding of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, including its objectives and main disciplines;

### Enhance understanding of the special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions of the IFD Agreement and the needs assessment process.

## Tuesday, 11 November 2025

| Time | Title of Session | Speakers |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9:00–9:20  **20 min** | **Opening session**   * Opening remarks by representative of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (10 min) * Opening remarks by WTO Secretariat – including introduction of the objectives of the Workshop (10 min) | Representative of Saudi Arabia  Claudia Locatelli, WTO Secretariat |
| 9:20–10:00  **40 min** | **Introduction to the IFD Agreement**   * Importance of investment facilitation * Origin and Members parties to the IFD Agreement * Objectives, structure and scope of application of the Agreement   **Q&A** | Claudia Locatelli |
| 10:00–10:45  **45 min** | **Transparency of investment measures (Section II of the IFD Agreement)**   * Introduction – importance of transparency * Key disciplines:   + publication of measures and information;   + information to be made publicly available if an investment authorization is required;   + single information portal;   + publication in advance and opportunity to comment on proposed measures;   + no fees for access to information;   + notification to the WTO; and   + information to be made publicly available on the entry and temporary stay of natural persons for conducting investment activities   **Q&A** | Claudia Locatelli |
| 10:45–11:00 | **Short coffee break** |  |
| 11:00–12:15  **75 min** | **Overview of Investment Facilitation Framework in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** | Representative of Saudi Arabia |
| 12:15–13:30 | **Lunch break (75 min)** |  |
| 13:30–15:00  **90 min** | **Streamlining and speeding up investment-related administrative procedures (Section III of the IFD Agreement)**   * Introduction – importance of good governance of investment-related procedures * Key disciplines:   + administration of measures of general application; general principles for authorization procedures;   + disciplines on authorization procedures;   + multiple applications;   + authorization fees;   + use of ICT/e-government;   + independence of regulatory authorities;   + appeal or review; and   + periodic review   **Q&A** | Claudia Locatelli |
| 15:00–16:00  **60 min** | **Practical exercise on Transparency and Streamlining and speeding up investment-related administrative procedures** | Claudia Locatelli |

## Wednesday, 12 November 2025

| Time | Sessions | Speakers |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9:00–10:30  **90 min** | **The IFD Agreement in relation to Members parties' existing and future International Investment Agreements** (BITs andInvestment Chapters in FTAs)   * IFDA "firewall" clause (Article 4)   **Q&A** | Claudia Locatelli |
| 10:30–10:45 | **Short coffee break** |  |
| 10:45–11:15  **30 min** | **Focal points; domestic regulatory coherence and cross-border cooperation  (Section IV of the IFD Agreement)**   * Key disciplines:   + Focal points   + Domestic regulatory coherence   + Domestic supplier databases; supplier-development programmes;   + Cross-border cooperation on investment facilitation   **Q&A** | Claudia Locatelli |
| 11:15–12:30  **75 min** | **Special and differential treatment (SD&T) for developing countries and least-developed Members  (Section V of the IFD Agreement)**   * Introduction * Key disciplines:   + general principles;   + categories of provisions (A, B, C);   + notification and implementation of the different categories of provisions; and   + other SD&T provisions   **Investment facilitation needs assessment and Self-assessment Guide**  **Q&A** | Claudia Locatelli |
| 12:30–14:00 | **Lunch break (90 min)** |  |
| 14:00–15:30  **90 min** | **Update on the Needs Assessment Process in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**  **Q&A** | Representative of Saudi Arabia  Rep. of the World Bank Group (TBC) |
| 15:30–16:00  **30 min** | **Closing session**   * Key takeaways * Work priorities and closing remarks | Representative of Saudi Arabia  Claudia Locatelli, WTO Secretariat |

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