

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 ArabiaRep. of the World Bank Group (TBC) |
| 15:30–16:00**30 min** | **Closing session*** Key takeaways
* Work priorities and closing remarks
 | Representative of Saudi ArabiaClaudia Locatelli, WTO Secretariat |

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