

Background of the event

The panel session forms part of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2018 (22-26 October 2018). The overall theme of the Forum is 'Investing in Sustainable Development'. The Forum will address global challenges for international investment in the new era of globalisation and industrialisation. Investment stakeholders will gather to brainstorm solution-oriented initiatives and build global partnerships to advance prosperity for all. In 2018, the World Investment Forum will bring more actors to the table, including philanthropists, impact fund heads, academics, and other sustainability pioneers. More than 5,000 investment stakeholders are anticipating to converge in Geneva for the event.



Introduction

In order to achieve the SDGs, a substantial amount of investment is required. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has a potential to contribute to realising the SDGs, e.g. by investing in renewable energy projects needed for the transition to a low carbon economy, or by developing water and sewage infrastructure in cities. FDI can also have the objective to create green infrastructure, such as reforestation projects or restoring coral reefs. Investments in the field of natural resources and land development need to be tailored very carefully, taking into account the vulnerability of ecosystems and the livelihood of local inhabitants.

The international legal regime is to ensure that FDI supports the SDGs goals of host states, and at the same time continues to protect foreign investors against arbitrary treatment by such host states. This tension is precisely the central subject of discussion in the panel session 'Towards Realisation of SDGs on the National Level: Challenges posed by International Investment Law,' organised by Nyenrode Business University with the cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Host states have to deal with these tensions every day when they wish to change their laws or policies, or have to decide about the continuation of a licence held by a foreign investor. Careful treaty drafting is one aspect, careful policy-making is a second aspect and careful investment-planning and implementation constitutes a third aspect. The panel will be discussing the question of policy coherence between complying with international investment law and implementing the SDGs.



Towards Realisation of SDGs on the National Level: Challenges posed by International Investment law

25 October 2018

8.30-10.00

Room: XXVI

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Speakers



Mr. Ronald Roosdorp

Director for International Trade Policy & Economic Governance, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



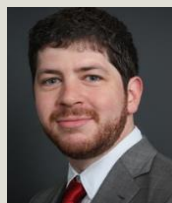
Mr. Carsten Schitteck

Senior negotiator, European Commission, DG Trade B. 2 - Investment



Ms. Samira Sulejmanovic

Head of Department of Bilateral Trade Relations, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Mr. Sebastián Green Martínez

Associate in the Litigation, International Arbitration and Mediation, Uría Menéndez Abogados, Madrid, Spain



Dr. Ahmad Firdaus Sukmono

Vice-Chairman of the Indonesian Anti-Dumping Committee; Expert: Indonesian investment policies



Ms. Yulia Levashova

Researcher International Investment Law, Nyenrode Business University; Research Fellow Utrecht University



Prof. Tineke Lambooy

Professor Corporate Law, Nyenrode Business University; Adjunct Professor at Law, Airlangga University; Research Fellow Utrecht University

Programme

8.30: Opening (coffee, tea & muffins)

8.30 - 8.45: Introducing new developments in the policy and the legal arena

Tineke Lambooy, Chair

Professor Corporate Law, Nyenrode Business University
"Connecting the SDGs with international investment law"

Yulia Levashova,

Researcher International Investment Law, Nyenrode Business University
"New developments concerning the standard of fair and equitable treatment of a foreign investor and the host state's right to regulate"

8.50 - 9.20: Panel I

The SDGs and their role in IIA drafting, and in national and EU policy-making

Ronald Roosdorp,

Director for International Trade Policy & Economic Governance, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"The new Dutch Model BIT - The connection with the SDGs"

Carsten Schitteck,

Senior negotiator, European Commission

"The negotiation of EU Trade and Investment Agreements - The role of SDGs"

9.25 - 9.55: Panel II

The perspective of economies in transition - implementing the SDGs: investment law and policy

Sebastián Green Martínez,

Associate, Uría Menéndez Abogados, Madrid

"Policy coherence between complying with international investment law and implementing the SDGs: the perspective of Argentina"

Samira Sulejmanovic,

Head of Department of Bilateral Trade Relations, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ahmad Firdaus Sukmono,

Vice Chairman of Indonesian Anti-Dumping Committee

"Policy coherence between complying with international investment law and implementing the SDGs: the perspective of Indonesia"

9.55 - 10.00: Closing of the Session