

UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2018

The Global I-Guides Meeting: How the Online Investment Guides Can Help Promote and Facilitate Investment

Statement by Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Geneva, 23 October 2018

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us this morning and it is a pleasure to be here on the panel with representatives of the investment promotion agencies of Madagascar, Malawi, and Nigeria, and to see representatives of many other investment promotion agencies with whom we have worked so far and with whom we wish to work in the future. It is also a pleasure also to welcome Stephen Karingi from the Economic Commission for Africa and to see colleagues from other regional commissions present.

We attach a lot of importance to the investment guides. They help countries attract better quality and greener foreign investment. They also help investment promotion agencies build their capacities, understand the needs of investors, map out the route investors must follow among the many different government departments, and raise the profile of your agencies.

By being online the guides can also be updated at any time, and investment promotion agency staff are fully involved in the research and development of content.

Let us also recall that the guides are framed according to the information investors are seeking and on this point we are constantly looking to evolve and we welcome your feedback. With the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change we need to ensure that investment is geared towards the serious challenges we face.

Finally, the guides can be implemented quickly, in as short a time as two months, and, because they are based on a template, at little cost. They are therefore ideal for ensuring that as many countries as possible can benefit from the programme.

The aim of today's event is to hear from recent partners of the guides programme on their experiences, how the guides can be further improved and aligned with your sustainable development goals and how international and regional organizations can contribute to implementing the guides.

For this reason, the event is organized jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa with whom we have had a partnership for the last 18 months. In that time, we have jointly implemented guides in Congo Brazzaville, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia, and guides are shortly to be completed in Ethiopia and Mauritania. On behalf of UNCTAD, allow me to thank you Stephen for your support to this partnership.

I will shortly hand the floor to Stephen, after which we will have a very brief presentation on the guides, we will hear from our partners in Madagascar, Malawi and Nigeria and then we will open the floor.

Before we end the meeting we also be hearing about the new partnership launched with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies to implement guides in 8 countries of that region, and I am pleased to welcome Diane Edwards.

As you will have noted, UNCTAD is keen to work with partner organizations to implement the guides. Therefore, I would be keen to hear as well from colleagues in the regional commissions on their interest in this programme.

With that I wish you a fruitful session and am happy to hand the floor to Stephen Karingi from the Economic Commission for Africa.