

2024

# Investment Policy Forum

Manila, Philippines | October 16-18, 2024

Advancing reform for sustainable development



## 2024 Investment Policy Forum Fostering Coherence for Sustainable Investment Governance: Aligning economic, social, and environmental dimensions

October 16–18, 2024

Manila, Philippines

All times local (Philippines time, UTC+8)

### Day One: Wednesday, October 16

8:00	Registration
9:00	Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks
10:00	<b>Icebreaker and Networking</b> This session will provide an opportunity for participants to reconnect and take stock of developments since the 2023 IPF in Panama and consider the <i>Toolkit for Institutional Coherence</i> .
11:00	<b>Scene Setter: Introducing <i>horizontal coherence</i> for sustainable investment governance</b>
12:00	Lunch

2024

# Investment Policy Forum

Manila, Philippines | October 16-18, 2024

Advancing reform for sustainable development



14:30	<p><b>Panel: ISDS reform processes—increasing fragmentation or strengthening coherence?</b></p> <p>This panel will focus on ongoing IIA and ISDS reform processes, including on the global (e.g., UNCTAD WIF, UNCITRAL Working Group III) as well as regional and plurilateral levels (e.g., ASEAN 2016–2025 Investment Work Programme, AfCFTA Protocol on Investment, OECD Future of Investment Treaties, G20 Working Group on Trade and Investment) and how they link with other reform agendas (e.g., business and human rights processes, international taxation reform). Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences in navigating these overlapping processes and discuss strategic ideas for developing more coherent approaches.</p>
16:00	<p><b>Afternoon Break</b></p>
16:30	<p><b>Interactive Session: Promoting sustainable investment for people and the planet</b></p> <p>This session will focus on the promotion of sustainable investment, which is crucial for climate action and a fair and just energy transition. The prevailing approach to investment protection has been based on flawed assumptions and has failed to attract and facilitate sustainable investment. Participants will share their vision of sustainable investment, along with perspectives on how their countries are promoting and facilitating it. Lastly, the session will highlight how the IPF can support further ambitions of encouraging sustainable investment.</p>
17:30	<p><b>Cocktail Briefing: Recent developments in international taxation affecting investment</b></p> <p>This optional cocktail briefing will map out various international tax developments that are impacting the work of investment policy-makers. The discussion will include the latest updates on the global minimum tax and what it means for investment incentives, as well as progress toward a UN Convention on Tax. Participants will also learn about the rise in tax-related ISDS claims and what this could mean for tax dispute resolution going forward.</p>

2024

# Investment Policy Forum

Manila, Philippines | October 16-18, 2024

Advancing reform for sustainable development



18:30	End of Day One
-------	----------------

## Day Two: Thursday, October 17

9:00	<p><b>Panel: Coherence in investment and human rights governance—ensuring a human-centred approach</b></p> <p>This panel will centre on the interaction between investment governance, on the one hand, and labour standards, public health, gender equality, and other human rights, on the other. The session will explore the interlinkages between investment policies and human rights as highlighted in the new generation of investment treaties, investment laws, and contracts, as well as business and human rights processes. Participants will reflect on how the design and implementation of these cross-cutting issues can promote, rather than impede, overall sustainable development.</p>
10:30	<b>Morning Break</b>
11:00	<p><b>Panel: Coherence in investment and climate governance—ensuring a just energy transition</b></p> <p>This panel will explore the synergies between climate action and economic development, focusing on the nexus between renewable energy investments, decarbonization efforts, and industrialization ambitions in developing countries. The session will highlight challenges and experiences in governing these issues in investment law and policy frameworks. Participants will have the opportunity to share best practices and pathways to build robust policies, institutions, and practices for a just and equitable energy transition.</p>
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>

2024

# Investment Policy Forum

Manila, Philippines | October 16-18, 2024

Advancing reform for sustainable development



13:30	<p><b>Breakout Session: Rethinking investment treaties—a positive agenda for future treaties</b></p> <p>This session will explore to what degree treaties can help in resolving policy challenges beyond the often-cited investment protection and dispute settlement. The discussion aims to contribute to a positive agenda for future investment treaties and to ensure that they enhance rather than undermine <i>horizontal coherence</i> and sustainable development. Participants will have the opportunity to select and discuss their priority policy problems and constraints while offering ideas that contribute to the rethinking of investment treaties of the future.</p>
15:00	<p><b>Afternoon Break</b></p>
15:30	<p><b>Panel: Coherence between investment and tax governance—re-evaluating investment incentives</b></p> <p>This session will explore practical tools and approaches for countries to review fiscal incentives, including those offered to investors in special economic zones. The discussion will build on the 2023 IPF tax and investment panel that focused on the need for countries to rethink the use of fiscal incentives considering the introduction of the global minimum tax. Participants will have the opportunity to share frameworks, approaches, and quantitative tools to determine if incentives are necessary and, if so, what type of incentives make sense based on the sector.</p>
17:00	<p><b>End of Day Two</b></p>

2024

# Investment Policy Forum

Manila, Philippines | October 16-18, 2024

Advancing reform for sustainable development



## Day Three: Friday, October 18

9:00	<p><b>Panel: Rethinking investment laws to propel countries' policy objectives</b></p> <p>This session will focus on the use and function of national investment laws and assess how they can help foster coherence in national investment governance and overall sustainable development. The session will discuss the investment law functions that are the most conducive to or risky for coherent governance of sustainable investment at the national level. Participants will have a chance to highlight and share experiences on how national investment laws interact with other policy areas, such as dispute prevention and settlement, human rights, taxation, and climate change.</p>
10:30	<p><b>Morning Break</b></p>
11:00	<p><b>Panel: Rethinking investment contracts—a renewed tool for investment governance?</b></p> <p>This session will focus on the risks, opportunities, and best practices in relation to the use of investment contracts and highlight ongoing regional and global reform efforts. The existing regime of investment contracts, akin to the stock of old-generation IIAs, gives rise to a number of similar concerns. Moreover, following the increasing number of reform processes for IIAs, parallel processes are appearing on investment contracts—some of which pose significant risks for developing countries, as they can potentially consolidate problematic treaty provisions in contracts, making the outdated provisions more decentralized and harder to tackle. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences, challenges, successes, and lessons learned with reforming investment contracts.</p>
12:30	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>

2024

# Investment Policy Forum

Manila, Philippines | October 16-18, 2024

Advancing reform for sustainable development



14:00	<b>Plenary: Practical tool to enhance <i>horizontal coherence</i> across policy areas</b> Building on the 3 days of discussions, participants will develop a <i>2024 IPF outcome tool</i> to support governments and stakeholders in strengthening investment governance coherence across several policy areas.
16:00	<b>Closing ceremony</b>
16:30	<b>End of Day Three</b>