

MIKTA Investment Workshop Reflections

Reflecting on the MIKTA Workshop on Trade and Investment at the WTO on 20 March 2017, MIKTA countries took note of the following key messages:

- ⌚ Recognising the dynamic links between trade, investment and development, there is a need for greater coherence in trade and investment policy.
- ⌚ **The WTO has an important role to play in discussions on investment** given its broad membership and as the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade
 - any discussions in the WTO should add value to work in other fora including the G20, APEC, UNCTAD and OECD
 - an open and informed dialogue is useful if members wish to consider putting more focus on these issues in the WTO.
- ⌚ **Investment is covered in a piecemeal way across the WTO Agreements**
 - the GATS covers foreign direct investment (FDI) in services, which accounts for two-thirds of global inward FDI stock and 55-60 per cent of all services trade
 - the TRIMs Agreement and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures seek to ensure investment measures are not inconsistent with GATT trade rules
 - TRIPS provisions are relevant to the legal environment affecting foreign investment
 - the plurilateral GPA prohibits discrimination against foreign products or suppliers on the basis of their degree of foreign affiliation or ownership
 - investment-related measures are also considered in WTO accession negotiations.
- ⌚ **Recent trends in trade and investment are changing the way we think about investment**
 - developing countries account for an increasing share of inward and outward FDI
 - FDI is a vital source of funding to close the \$2.5 trillion development investment gap to achieve sustainable development goals
 - with the right policy settings, recognising the trade-investment nexus, investment can advance inclusive, broad-based growth, promote and enable sustainable development and responsible business conduct.
- ⌚ **Discussions in the WTO could contribute to**
 - strengthening trade and investment policy coherence
 - facilitating trade and investment flows
 - mobilising trade and investment for development
 - exploring where multilateral rules could be usefully strengthened or expanded to support these objectives.

- ⌚ **There is a high-level of interest and willingness among some WTO members to engage in open and inclusive discussions on investment**
 - if we can avoid known sensitivities, particularly around investor dispute settlement and investment protections
 - investment facilitation could be a good starting point for discussions to complement the recently concluded Trade Facilitation Agreement and current discussions on trade facilitation for services.
- ⌚ **Investment facilitation elements highlighted during the Workshop, which reflect core WTO principles and could form the basis for further discussions, include:**
 - transparency, predictability and non-discrimination in investment policies
 - efficiency and streamlining of administrative procedures to minimise investment barriers
 - international cooperation, capacity-building and technical assistance.