



## Concept Note

### Workshop on Key issues in International Investment Policymaking

20 November 2024

ONLINE

While Investment is critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, the global policy landscape is still largely dominated by old-generation international investment agreements (IIAs) that do not mitigate today's challenges in areas such as economic stability, environment, and lack sustainable investment facilitation provisions, and lead to increasing number of treaty-based investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS).

New-generation international investment governance instruments, including comprehensive IIAs reform, are increasingly embracing proactive facilitation features. Investment facilitation policies are advancing worldwide through international, regional and bilateral initiatives. However, much more remains to be done to gear facilitation features specially towards sustainable investment and reduce the risk of ISDS cases against State measures in pursuit of public policy objectives.

Ministers in charge of Trade in the joint statement of [11<sup>th</sup> UfM Trade Ministerial Conference](#) reaffirmed their commitment to support relevant multilateral initiatives towards achieving [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), in the same vein welcomed the ongoing work in World Trade Organization (WTO) on new initiatives among which "Investment Facilitation for Development" (IFD) supported to date by over 120 WTO members representing three-quarter of the WTO membership.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean with the [UN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT \(UNCTAD\)](#) will co-organize an **online UfM Workshop on Key Issues in International Investment Policymaking on 20 November** for UfM member states Government officials dealing with investment policies including investment promotion.

The workshop will shed light on UNCTAD's work on the reform of the international policy regime, the global and regional trends in International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and investor - State dispute settlement (ISDS) and highlighting key challenges with the existing IIA regime, UNCTAD's investment policy tools developed to assist countries modernizing and reforming their IIAs among which UNCTAD IIA Reform Accelerator.

The workshop will also include a presentation on the IIA toolbox developed by UNCTAD for the promotion of sustainable energy investment, responsible business conduct and inclusive investment provisions and investment facilitation in International Investment Agreements (IIAs).