



The UNCTAD/ICC Investment Advisory Council

What it is: The Investment Advisory Council (IAC) is a platform for high-level consultations between business and government leaders on key and emerging issues related to investment and sustainable development. Established during the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC-III) in May 2001, the IAC is a joint undertaking by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Objective: The IAC provides government officials and business executives with an informal and flexible framework for discussing and exploring practical ways of attracting foreign direct investment and benefiting from it.

Previous IAC meetings:

Xiamen -September 2010 - Held on the occasion of the 2010 World Investment Forum, the meeting, attended by 40 government and business leaders, including 6 Heads of State and 4 Heads of International Organizations, discussed the role of FDI in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. It called for the creation of a new business model that encourages foreign investors to “invest in the poor (viable and sustainable investment in poverty alleviation), for the poor (accessible and affordable products and services) and with the poor (fostering business linkages with domestic SMEs)”. This requires a new partnership between international organizations, TNCs and business schools.

Accra - April 2008 - Held on the occasion of UNCTAD XII and the 1st World Investment Forum, the meeting, in the presence of several Heads of States, including the President of Finland, and the UNCTAD Secretary-general addressed emerging challenges in the investment and development nexus, with a focus on actionable initiatives.

New York - September 2006 - Organized in conjunction with the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly and in the presence of several Heads of States, among which the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the meeting discussed corporate contributions towards strengthening LDC competitiveness.

Xi'an - June 2006 - Held on the occasion of the first UN Silk Road Investment Forum, the meeting, attended by several ministers and CEOs discussed opportunities and challenges towards regional cooperation in investment promotion in the Silk Road.

São Paulo - June 2004 - Held on the occasion of UNCATD XI, the meeting, under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan discussed practical means to increase the benefits of FDI, with a special focus on the investment climate and deepening linkages between TNCs and SMEs.

Tokyo - November 2003 - Co-organized with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), participants, which included investment officials and global corporate executives, focused on how to overcome impediments to FDI in Asian LDCs.

Johannesburg - August 2002 - Under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and in the presence of several Heads of States and Governments, including Jacques Chirac and Tony Blair, the meeting discussed sustainable business development in LDCs.

Monterrey - March 2002 - Held on the occasion of the Financing for Development Conference, and conducted under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and in the presence of the President of Senegal, the meeting addressed possible ways to encourage companies to invest more in Africa.