Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCTAD has been monitoring foreign direct investment (FDI) trends and prospects, multinational enterprise (MNE) operations, investment policies and investment promotion practices and strategies to inform governments and facilitate the exchange of best practices. As part of this effort, UNCTAD organized on 7 April 2020 a High-level Brainstorming on Investment Facilitation and Promotion: Challenges and Actions in Times of Pandemic Crisis. Outputs of this meeting, together with UNCTAD research on the online response to the crisis by national investment promotion agencies (IPAs), resulted in an advisory report published as a special issue of UNCTAD’s IPA Observer “Investment Promotion Agencies: Striving to Overcome the COVID-19 Challenge.”

As a follow up activity, this webinar for East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) members intends to: (a) promote the exchange of IPA experiences in the response to the COVID-19 crisis; (b) enhance the sharing of best practices; and (c) provide an opportunity to discuss COVID-19 induced changes to future IPA operations and strategies.

Questions to be addressed include:
- How did IPAs respond to COVID-19 related challenges in the region?
- Which best practices are there to stay?
- What will be the new normal for IPAs post-COVID-19?
- Which sectors/targets will be the new focus?
- How can IPAs and the private sector cooperate in the recovery phase?
- How can UNCTAD help?

Panelists include representatives from UNCTAD, the EAC and SADC secretariats, IPAs and private sector groups from the region.

Background UNCTAD documents on COVID-19:
- IPA Observer special issue: Investment Promotion Agencies: Striving to Overcome the COVID-19 Challenge.
- Investment Policy Monitor special issue: Investment Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Global Investment Trends Monitor: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global FDI and GVCs

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10.00 a.m.  Welcome

FDI Prospects and Investment Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Mr. James Zhan, Director, Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), UNCTAD

10.10 – 10.15  IPAs Adapting to the New Normal
Mr. Paul Wessendorp, Chief, Investment Promotion Section (IPS), DIAE, UNCTAD

10.15 – 10.20  Intervention by the East African Community secretariat
Mr. Christophe Bazavimo, Deputy Secretary General

10.20 – 10.25  Intervention by the Southern African Development Community secretariat
Mr. Mário Lironel, Senior Finance and Investment Officer

10.25 – 11.15  IPA and private sector presentations
- Mr. Antonio Henriques da Silva, President, Board of Directors, AIPEX
- Mr. Moses Ikiara, CEO, KenInvest
- Mr. Ken Poonoosamy, Ag. CEO, Economic Development Board Mauritius
- Ms. Ndiita Robiati, Deputy Executive Director, Namibia Investment Centre
- Mr. Philip Lucky, Head, Investment Promotion and Marketing Department, Rwanda Development Board
- Mr. Lenny Gabriel, Deputy CEO, Seychelles Investment Board
- Mr. Yunus Hoosen, Head, InvestSA, Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa
- Ms. Sheila Mugyenzi, Director, Investment Promotion and Business Development, Uganda Investment Authority
- Mr. Peter Mathuki, Executive Director, East African Business Council
- Mr. Tulo Makwati, Coordinator for the SADC Business Council at NEPAD Business Foundation

11.15 – 11.25  Q&As Moderator: Ms. Natalia Guerra, Economic Affairs Officer, IPS, UNCTAD

11.25 – 11.30  Wrap up and closing

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