

Promoting Foreign Investment to LLDCs

Thursday, 25 October 2018

Palais des Nations Restaurant des Délégués 13:15–14:45 hours
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Talking Points for the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

- I appreciate the kind invitation to attend and the efforts of UN-OHRLLS to organize this event. It is a pleasure that so many ministers, ambassadors, and distinguished guests have joined us here this afternoon.
- As UN-OHRLLS and UNCTAD have noted, landlocked developing countries, or LLDCs, face a number of common challenges to mobilize investment for the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. Many have experienced limited economic growth and persistent poverty. FDI is an important source of finance, but FDI to LLDCs has remained low and mainly in extractive sectors.
- During the WIF, we are hearing from stakeholders of the many investment opportunities, including in SDG-related projects, but also the challenges and conditions that are required for these projects to find the necessary finance. Opportunities are there in LLDCs, but they need to be identified, transferred into bankable proposals, and marketed to a target audience.

- The investment environment also needs to be conducive to SDG investments – there should be a political commitment to welcome FDI, an enabling policy framework and an institutional set-up to help implement and operate these projects. This requires not only dedication within governments, but importantly also local capacity. UNCTAD can help in developing that.

- We stand ready to assist in many investment related areas. Our UNCTAD team can carry out investment policy reviews, provide support in modernizing international investment agreements, and help in building capacity in investment promotion and facilitation. We also have a variety of trade and entrepreneurship related technical assistance programmes that can help improve your economies' competitive position.

- I look forward to the discussion and any suggestion on how UNCTAD can further assist you.

- Thank you.