

Remarks at UNCTAD High Level IIA Conference
13 November 2019, Geneva
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Breakout Session: Multilateral Processes and their contribution to Phases 1 and 2 of SD-oriented IIA reforms “Promoting and facilitating investment”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Presidential Decree 252 (December 22, 2017): declares investment promotion and attraction as a State Policy.
- With this aim, the Strategic Committee on Investment Promotion and Attraction was created, which is chaired by the President of the Nation and, in his absence, by the Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment.
 - Composed by 4 main members (Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and National Planning Secretariat).
 - Has flexibility to convene any public or private institution for a specific issue or project.
- One of the main roles of the Committee is to make the proper coordination to promote, attract, **FACILITATE**... the investment in the country.
- The same Decree establishes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be in charge of any negotiations of IIA.

EXPERIENCE SO FAR

- Strategic Committee on Investment Promotion and Attraction:
 - Worked on an investment catalogue (continuously updated).
 - Permanent feedback from the results of the project promotion stage.
 - Became the link between the investors and the public institutions.
 - Receives all the requirements from potential investors and coordinates the answers with the institutions in charge of a specific project.
- Ecuador saw the value on working in a specific scheme of investment facilitation.
 - Single Window / ONE- STOP SHOP
 - Ecuador is working on its implementation with the IADB (Inter-American Development Bank).
- This dynamic happened while Ecuador was working on its new IIA.
 - Negotiation of an Investment Facilitation and Cooperation Agreement with Brazil.
 - It contains new elements:
 - Joint Committee (in line with UNCTAD’s proposal).
 - Ombudsperson.
 - Cooperation among investment agencies.
 - Dispute prevention.

FINAL REMARKS

- There is a need to change the scope of IIA from dispute oriented (protection provisions) to an investment facilitation goal.