

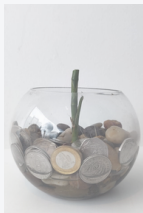
**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE)
of the
Financial Services Commission (FSC)
in collaboration with
Organisation for Economic
Co-Operation and Development
(OECD)**

VIRTUAL EVENT

08 JUNE 2022

**Investment Treaties and Climate
Change: Supporting climate-
friendly investment and policy
space for climate action**



**Mauritius Time: 13:00-16:00 hrs
UTC +2: 11:00 - 14:00 hrs**



OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP

Climate change is a defining challenge for government policy makers and our societies. As the leading climatologist, Michael Mann has written *“what was once largely perceived as an environmental threat is now viewed as an economic and national security threat”*. The widely-accepted need to approximately halve emissions by 2030, and reach net zero by around the middle of the century, has generated growing momentum for action.

In its 2021 report, Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (‘IPCC’) concluded that humanity may struggle to adapt to the consequences unless emissions are quickly reduced: *“Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action... will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”* The report, approved by 195 governments, found that the dangers from climate change are bigger and unfolding faster than previously expected. Yet, global emissions continue to accumulate rapidly, with 2021 emissions expected to be only slightly lower than the record 2019 levels – while UNEP reports that a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 en route to zero in 2050 is needed to remain on track.

The recognised urgency for public policy interventions has generated a broad range of government commitments to take action(s) on climate, albeit with still limited effects on emissions to date. Attention has expanded from environment ministries to finance ministries, trade ministries, and central banks.

In this context, the climate consequences of investment treaty policies are also coming to the fore.

The workshop will consider the interaction of investment treaties with climate change, recent reforms and policy debates.

Achieving climate goals will require massive amount of international and domestic investment. How can investment treaties help direct investment to sectors where it is needed? The workshop’s first session, dedicated to, *“Paris Agreement and Net Zero alignment of finance flows associated with investment treaties”*, will consider Paris Agreement and net zero alignment of investment treaty policies notably by reference to the Paris Agreement (art. 2.1(c)). That provision sets out the agreed aim to make *“finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development”*.

The workshop’s second session will address *“Investment treaties and policy space for climate policies”*. Massive regulatory and policy changes are needed to address climate change across the world and in particular in the African region. In its 2022 report, Working Group III of the United Nations’ IPCC expressed concern that much of international governance still promotes fossil fuels and highlighted the role of investment treaties and investor-state dispute settlement. The session will consider how investment treaties can assist governments in taking the necessary climate measures.

The workshop builds on the OECD’s ongoing work on these issues with governments, experts and stakeholders.

This workshop is targeted at investment and climate policy makers, investors, financial institutions and actors, civil society representatives and academics from around the world.

