

Modalities for regional cooperation in investment

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1. Investment cooperation and facilitation

Individual initiatives to:

- **increase transparency of each country's investment rules, regulations, policies and procedures through the publication of such information on a regular basis and by making such information widely available;**
- **simplify and expedite procedures for applications, approvals and implementation of investment projects at all levels; and**
- **expand the number of bilateral agreements for the avoidance of double taxation among countries**

1. Investment cooperation and facilitation, cont.

Collective initiatives to:

- establish a database for supporting industries and technology suppliers;**
- establish a database to enhance the flow of investment data and information on investment opportunities in each country;**
- promote public-private sector linkages through regular dialogues with the business community and other international organizations to identify investment impediments within and outside participating countries and propose ways to improve the investment environment in all countries;**
- identify target areas for technical cooperation, e.g. development of human resources, infrastructure, supporting industries, small and medium-sized enterprises, information technology, industrial technology, R & D and coordinate efforts among countries with other international organizations involved in technical cooperation;**
- examine the possibility of a regional agreement for the avoidance of double taxation.**

2. Investment Promotion and Awareness

- **Organize joint investment promotion activities, e.g. seminars, workshops, roadshows, investment forums**
- **Conduct regular consultations among investment agencies of countries on investment promotion matters**
- **Organize investment-related training programmes for officials of investment agencies of individual countries**
- **Exchange lists of promoted sectors/industries where countries could encourage investments from other countries and initiate promotional activities**
- **Examine possible ways by which the investment agencies and apex chambers of commerce and industry of countries can support the promotion efforts of other countries**
- **Establish a Joint Investment Promotion Committee to facilitate promotional activities.**

3. Investment protection

- **Conclude a regional agreement on the promotion and protection of investment incorporating issues related to:**
 - **post-establishment national treatment and Most-Favoured Nation treatment to investors from participating countries;**
 - **full security and protection of the investments made in accordance with the legislation of the host country by investors from participating countries and protection against unreasonable or discriminatory measures impairing the operation, management, maintenance, use, enjoyment, extension, disposition or liquidation of such investments;**
 - **protection against expropriation and nationalization, except for public use, or public purpose, or in the public interest, and under due process of law, on a non-discriminatory basis and upon payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation;**
 - **transfer of the capital, net profits, dividends, royalties, technical assistance and technical fees, interests and other income, accruing from any investments from investors of participating countries, including a provision for safeguarding the balance of payments;**
 - **dispute settlement procedures in cases of dispute relating to an investment between any participating country and an investor of another participating country or between participating countries**
 - **the imposition or enforcement of performance requirements.**
- **Protect and uphold the principles of intellectual property rights, at a minimum in accordance with the principles and rules of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights**

4. Investment liberalization

- **Establish a common investment area with full liberalization of investment from investors from participating countries**
- **Eliminating investment barriers**
- **Liberalizing investment rules and policies**
- **Granting pre-establishment national treatment and MFN to investors from participating countries**