IISD’s Sustainable Investment Advisory Services
Training, technical advice, and workshops

Who We Are and What We Do

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is an award-winning independent think tank championing and accelerating sustainable solutions to 21st-century problems.

IISD’s Sustainable Investment team of legal and policy experts provides demand-driven training, workshops, and technical advice to developing countries worldwide to ensure that the foreign investment they receive contributes to fair and sustainable development. Now more than ever, carefully designed investment laws and policies are fundamental for sustainable development.

Our Vision

In the face of interlocking crises—such as persistent poverty and global inequality, food and energy insecurity, biodiversity loss, and climate change—we believe it is more important than ever that change is spearheaded by the communities most affected by these unprecedented challenges.

IISD is committed to providing the understanding, knowledge, and practical skills to act instead of imposing ready-to-use solutions. We empower the governments and regional bodies we work with to take, own, and execute decisions based on their local contexts and priorities.

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Our Expertise

IISD’s Sustainable Investment experts are based around the world, and we work with developing countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. The tools and advice we provide cover every stage of the investment life cycle:

This breadth allows us to customize our workshops, training, and technical advice based on the investment priorities of your country.

Our advisory services are rooted in extensive practical knowledge of the local, national, and regional contexts in the countries where we work. The services benefit from IISD’s long-lasting relationships with government officials, academics, non-governmental organizations, and private practitioners across all the regions we work in.

IISD’s advisory services are informed by a deep understanding of global multilateral processes. Our team tracks or participates in all the key international investment reform initiatives—including in forums such as UNCTAD, UNCITRAL, WTO, OECD, AfCFTA, and RCEP—where we support developing country officials to navigate the negotiations and shape change within global investment governance.

IISD’s sustainable investment experts work across a wide range of sectors—including agriculture and food systems, energy, and mining—and issues, such as tax and voluntary sustainability standards.
Our Services

Rooted in this vision, know-how, and global presence, IISD’s team of international lawyers and policy experts provide in-person or virtual training, workshops, and technical advice to government officials from developing countries across a wide range of topics, including:

- Reform of investment treaties and contracts, including the development of national and regional model instruments and negotiation strategies
- Alignment of national and regional instruments with modern regional and international instruments and best practices, including regional investment treaties
- Negotiation of investment treaties and contracts, including commentaries on negotiating text and the development of negotiating tools and processes
- Establishment of coordination mechanisms for enhancing coherence in investment governance and preventing investment disputes at the national level, including guidance on setting up inter-ministerial committees
- Adoption and revision of national investment laws and policies, as well as national and regional strategies
- Preparation and adoption of national and regional strategies for investment governance reform processes at subregional, regional, and international levels

Please note that IISD cannot act for governments in live contract negotiations and dispute resolutions.
Reach Out for Other IISD Services

Upon request, we can work with your government or regional institution to design tailor-made training, technical advice, and workshops to meet your needs, combining our investment services with insights from other IISD expert teams, including:

- agriculture and food systems
- voluntary sustainability standards
- mining
- trade
- tax
- infrastructure

Our Expertise Is Available to Developing Countries Pro Bono

IISD offers training, workshops, and technical advice to developing countries pro bono. However, countries may be asked to contribute toward reasonable expenses. In case of insufficient funds, priority is given to least developed countries.

Contact Us

If you are interested in discussing how IISD can support your government or regional institution, please email:

investmentlaw@iisd.org