



## **UNCTAD SPECIAL SESSION**

### **Investing in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Vulnerable Economies**

**THURSDAY, JULY 7 - 14:30-15:45 (Geneva time; 20:30 –21:45 UTC)**

Climate change is a serious threat to our existence, development, and planet. 2020 was not only the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also the year of intensifying impacts of climate change: elevated temperatures, floods, droughts, storms, wildfires and even locust plagues. The most climate-vulnerable countries are also the ones hit the hardest by COVID-19 pandemic in multiple sectors, including trade and investment. As temperatures continue to rise and the impacts of climate change intensify, nations must urgently step-up action to adapt to the new climate reality to avoid facing severe costs, damages, and losses.

Climate change adaptation refers to reducing countries' and communities' vulnerability to climate change by increasing their ability to absorb impacts and remain resilient. It is estimated that annual adaptation costs in developing countries alone are USD 70 billion. This figure is expected to reach USD 140-300 billion in 2030 and USD 280-500 billion in 2050. FDI is an important potential source of development finance for developing countries and can be complementary to official development assistance (ODA) in least developed countries (LDCs).

COVID-19 has revealed the urgency to transform global approaches to trade, investment, and international cooperation for a sustainable recovery with a particular focus on climate change. Full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact is a key global requisite of climate change adaptation. Among others, fair trade, robust investments and scaled up technology transfer are critical enablers of enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable countries. However, despite the rebound in global FDI inflows, we are far from an even recovery. An increase in financing will be critical for countries to meet climate change adaptation goals.

It is imperative that global commitments on climate finance are fully delivered. Thus, the priority for climate and trade and investment policies is to build effective cooperation to enhance the climate-vulnerable countries' adaptability to a changing business environment with the necessary financial and technology transfers. This needs to be urgently and significantly addressed in climate action.

## Session plan

Session Chair: **Amelia Santos-Paulino**, Chief of Investment Issues and Analysis Section, DIAE, UNCTAD.

14:30 – 14:45 Introduction, **Amelia Santos-Paulino**, UNCTAD.

14:45 – 14:55 **Somik Lall**, Office of the Chief Economist, EFI, World Bank.

14:55 – 15:05 **Sarianna Lundan**, Professor of International Business at University of Bremen.

15:05 – 15:15 **Elisa Guiliani**, Professor of Management at University of Pisa.

15:15 – 15:25 **Ravi Ramamurti**, Professor of International Business and Strategy at Northeastern University.

15:25 – 15:40 Q&A

15:40 – 15:45 Closing, Amelia Santos-Paulino

-End of session-