

Workshop and Public Consultations on Environmental Assessments of Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (FIPAs)

Agenda

1:30 - 2: 00: Presentation on FAC ITCan approach to Environmental Assessment of FIPAs and General Question and Answer period

Facilitator: Jaye Shuttleworth, Director, Sustainable Development Division, Foreign Affairs Canada

Presenter: Alisa Postner, Policy Officer, Investment Trade Policy Division, International Trade Canada

Panelists:

Stephen de Boer, Deputy Director, Investment Trade Policy Division, International Trade Canada
Rachel McCormick, Environmental Assessment Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development Division, Foreign Affairs Canada

2:00 - 3: 00: Small group discussion

Workshop participants will discuss the following 4 questions in breakout groups:

- 1) The EA of FIPAs considers the environmental impact of the negotiations on Canada. A number of stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the environmental impact of the negotiations and governance issues in the country with which Canada is negotiating. While it is outside the scope of the EA to analyse these issues, Canada's approach taken thus far in EAs of FIPAs is to include a "Stakeholder Feedback" section in the Initial EA report which identifies and discusses these issues. What are your views on this approach? Are there other ways, within the scope of the EA, for these issues to be addressed?
- 2) One of the objectives of the EA is to assist Canadian decision makers to integrate environmental considerations into the negotiating process and policy development activities by providing information on the possible environmental impacts of the proposed agreement. Are there specific mechanisms the Government could employ to enhance this outcome?
- 3) Two central challenges of assessing the environmental impacts of trade and investment negotiations are 1) determining how trade and investment will change as a result of the negotiation, and 2) determining the potential impacts of those changes based on a limited set of data. What tools or approaches could the Government use to overcome these challenges?
- 4) In your opinion, are there other types of trade consultation mechanisms (i.e. stakeholder meetings, Electronic Dialogue Discussions, etc.) that could help the Canadian government in better informing Canadians?

3: 00 - 3: 15: Health Break

3: 15 - 3: 45: - Report back to Plenary, General discussion, Conclusion