



TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: INVESTING FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Event Program

22-23 October 2025

Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Centre (JRCC) Sharjah, United Arab Emirates



World Association of
Investment Promotion
Agencies



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT



استثمر في الشارقة
invest in Sharjah



21st October

WAIPA General Assembly and Steering Committee Elections
Strictly for WAIPA Members Only



<https://worldinvestmentconference.org/>

Consultative Committee Members



Strategic Partners



Steering Committee Members



World Association of
Investment Promotion
Agencies



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT



استثمر في الشارقة
invest in Sharjah



PROGRAM

<https://worldinvestmentconference.org/>

The 29th World Investment Conference and the 8th Sharjah Investment Forum (the twin events) will take place from 21 to 23 October in Sharjah, UAE. It is also the year that marks 30th anniversary of WAIPA. The twin events will be jointly organized by World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, the Sharjah FDI Office and the UAE Ministry of Investment.

Overview of the Twin Events

The **WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC)** is a premier global forum for investment stakeholders to engage on emerging challenges and opportunities that shape international investment flows and promotion strategies. Since its inception in 1996, WIC has played a key role in advancing investment promotion and facilitation, fostering strategic partnerships, and driving policy advocacy. The **Sharjah Investment Forum (SIF)** is a leading investment conference and exhibition in the MENA region. It is the annual flagship of Sharjah FDI Office, the FDI promotion arm of the Sharjah Government. Both serve as platforms for actionable dialogue, best-practice sharing, and launching key tools and initiatives that contribute to sustainable investment and development.

Global Context: Key and Emerging Challenges and opportunities

The twin events will take place against a backdrop of complex global transformations: geopolitical dynamics, sustainability imperatives, technological advancement, and shifting global value chains are redefining the investment landscape. These dynamics demand adaptive strategies, stronger global cooperation, and novel investment models that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

Theme, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes

Under the theme *"Transforming Our World: Investing for a Resilient and Sustainable Future,"* the twin events will promote public-private collaboration, responsible investment, and innovative financing to address global challenges. The event aims to realign national investment strategies with evolving global realities, support the launch of a "Decade of Promoting Investment for Good," and catalyze long-term initiatives for inclusive, sustainable development. It will generate high-level policy dialogue, strengthen institutional capacity, and enhance cross-border cooperation.

Structure, Participation, and Partnerships

The twin events will bring together global investment leaders, ministers, CEOs, IPAs, investors, and international institutions. Key highlights include a Grand Opening, Global Leaders' Insights, Ministerial Roundtable, Investment Excellence Awards, High-level Multi-stakeholders Panels, Deal Making Platform, and Executives' Strategic Focus. The program also features Thematic Tracks on AI and digital investment, new sources of financing, FDI in services, agribusiness, and more. A number of signature sessions will be co-hosted with international organizations, including ICC, IEDC, ILO, ITC, OECD, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNWTO, World Bank. Open to all participants, the twin events will emphasize inclusivity, innovation, and forward-looking, reinforcing the two global forums' leadership and commitment to shaping a sustainable investment future.



Day 0

October 21st, 2025

09:00-10:00	IPA executive brainstorming 1: Rethinking Investment Promotion in a Transforming Global Economy (IPAs Executives only)
	<p>As the global trade and investment landscape undergoes profound transformation, IPAs face a pivotal moment. To remain competitive in the international race for FDI, IPAs must recalibrate their strategies, focusing resources on sectors that deliver the greatest development impact while aligning with national industrial priorities and emerging global economic mega-trends.</p> <p>This high-level session will explore how IPAs can identify and prioritize new sectors using evidence-based approaches and cutting-edge analytical tools. It will emphasize the importance of balancing investor feasibility with long-term economic value, ensuring that strategic choices are both forward-looking and grounded in national development objectives.</p> <p>Senior IPA executives, including WAIPA's Steering Committee leaders, will engage in a collaborative brainstorming designed to spark innovative thinking and shape next-generation strategies for investment promotion and facilitation. This dynamic exchange will serve as a strategic warm-up for the subsequent deliberations on WAIPA's institutional and strategic agenda at the Steering Committee and General Assembly.</p>
Room 1	Lead: Dr. James Zhan, Chairman of WIC Executive Board, & Mr. Dushyant Thakor, Deputy Director, WAIPA
10:00-12:00	WAIPA Steering Committee (closed session)
	Lead: Mr. Ismail Ersahin, CEO and Executive Director, WAIPA
10:15-11:15	IPA executive brainstorming 2 (Masterclass): Measure what matters – Making FDI Count (IPAs only)
	<p>This masterclass will equip IPAs with practical guidance, using a KPI toolkit, to track FDI's impact on the domestic economy and sustainable development. Tracking and assessing such impact data will help IPAs better define the strategies and programmes needed to enhance positive impacts through sustainable investment facilitation.</p>
Room 1	Lead: Ms. Githa Roelans, Head of MERB, SEPJTD, ILO & Mr. Dushyant Thakor, Deputy Director, WAIP
11:30 -12:30	IPA executive brainstorming 3 "Mastering IPA Excellence: A Perspective on Benchmarking and Impact Reporting" (IPAs only)
	<p>In today's competitive global environment, IPAs face increasing pressure to demonstrate their effectiveness, enhance service delivery, and contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This session will explore how IPAs can build credibility, improve client satisfaction, and optimize their interaction with stakeholders using 3 important levers.</p>



	<p>The session will examine how benchmarking supports performance assessment and decision-making, while also enhancing internal accountability and transparency. This is closely linked to the user perspective, where capacity-building initiatives are structured along the investor journey to ensure consistent service quality. The session will conclude with a focus on reporting on impact, designing a balanced set of indicators for a compelling result.</p> <p>The session will be open to all IPAs, and will deliver value to strategic decision makers and IPA leaders, as well technical experts in investment promotion and result measurement. Participants will be exposed to new perspectives and tools that they can apply immediately.</p>
Room 1	Lead: Ms. Silvia Campos Borrás, Program Officer, ITC
12:30-13:30	Networking Lunch
JRCC	
13:30-14:00	Registration to WAIPA General Assembly
Main Hall	
14:00-16:30	WAIPA General Assembly (WAIPA members only)
	Lead: Mr. Ismail Ersahin
Main Hall	
17:00-19:00	Welcome Reception
	Conference Registration in Parallel
JRCC	



Day 1, October 22nd, 2025

Time/ Location	JRCC - Main Hall	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
08:30–09:50	Registration			
10:00–10:25	Welcome & Opening Speeches			
10:25 – 10:35	Keynote WAIPA@30 and the New Decade Ahead			
10:35 -10:50	Setting the Stage Addressing Key Emerging Challenges and Opportunities			
10:50 – 11:10	WIC-SIF 2025 Sponsors Awards			
11:20 –12:55	Global Leader's Insights Re-strategizing Investment Promotion and Facilitation at the Global Economic Shift			
12:55 –13:25	Fireside Chat From Content to Capital: How the Digital Generation Is Shaping Global Investments			
13:25-14:10	High-level Panel Green is the New Gold: Competitive Advantage Through Sustainable Investment	Executive Focus Start-ups and SMEs as Strategic FDI Catalysts	Thematic Session Private Equity Funds for Investment Impact	In Focus Intro to the Services of the Sharjah Foundation to Support Pioneering Projects
14:10 – 14:55	High-level Panel Future Proofing Economics – From Risk to Resilience	Executive Focus From Policy to Performance: What Works in Attracting FDI	Thematic Session Smart Cities, Future Markets	In Focus Growth Capital Unlocked: Scaling UAE Businesses with the Emirates Growth Fund
14:55 - 15:05	Keynote Capital that Grows with you: Empowering National Champions			
15:05–15:35	Fireside Chat De-risking Investment Amid Global Shocks			
15:35-16:20	High-Level Panel Creating a Seamless Investment Environment	Special Spotlight Turning Local Strength into Global Opportunities	In Focus Delivering the Future: How NXN and 'Waslah' are Enabling the UAE's Seamless Logistics Network	In Focus Visit Sharjah – The Destination for Investment, Hospitality, Culture & Education



16:20–17:05	High-level Panel Aligning Global Finance with Sustainability	High-level Panel Harnessing International Investment for the Digital Economy	Thematic Session FDI in Services: A key Engine of Global Growth	Executive Focus AI and the Future of International Investment
20:00-22:00	Gala Dinner and Culture Show (Including WAIPA Investment Awards Ceremony) Off site at SPARK			

08:30-09:50	Registration and Networking reception

10:00-10:25	Opening and Welcome Speeches
Main Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.H. Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, Chairperson, Sharjah Investment & Development Authority H.E. Thani Al Zyouidi, UAE's Minister of Foreign Trade Dr. James Zhan, Chairman, Executive Board of World Investment Conference

10:25-10:35	Keynote WAIPA@30 and the New Decade Ahead
Main Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ismail Ersahin, CEO and Executive Director, WAIPA

10:35 - 10:50	Setting the Stage Addressing Emerging Global Challenges and Opportunities
Main Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mohamed El Erian, Chief Economic Advisor at Allianz

10:50–11:10	WIC-SIF 2025 Sponsors Awards
Main Hall	

11:20-12:55	Global Leaders' Insights Re-strategizing Investment Promotion and Facilitation at the Global Economic Shift
Main Hall	<p>Opening keynote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Elected, WAIPA <p>Keynote speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat H.E. Gerardo Werthein, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina H.E. Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister of Investment of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov - Minister of the Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Rosan Perkasa Roesiani, Minister of Investment and Downstream Industry, Indonesia H.E. Gareth Haddad Guadalupe - Minister of Economy and Finance, São Tome and Principe H.E. Harry Theoharis, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Greece H.E. Mohamed Adam Mohamed - Deputy Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, Somalia



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Bhutan Business representative: Dr. Holger Bingmann, CEO & Founder of Thinking Arabian & Rethinking Africa Foundation, and President of ICC Germany
12:55-13:25	Fireside Chat From Content to Capital: How the Digital Generation Is Shaping Global Investments <p>Raj Shamani explores how the next generation's digital native mindset—from content creation to personal branding—has become a powerful force in global finance. He discusses how influencers, creators, and digitally empowered individuals are converting social capital and creative output into real investment opportunities, shaping trends, markets, and capital flows across borders. The session delves into new pathways that connect storytelling, online presence, and financial assets, highlighting how digital culture is intersecting with international investment.</p>
Main Hall	Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Raj Shamani, Entrepreneur and Social media celebrity. Moderator: Big Hass, Radio Host, Pulse 95 Radio
13:25-14:10	High-level Panel Green is the New Gold: Competitive Advantage through Sustainable Investment <p>Sustainability has become a defining factor in global investment flows, reshaping how countries and companies compete for FDI. This High-level Panel will explore how adopting green standards, investing in clean technologies, and embedding ESG principles can create a powerful competitive edge. Speakers will discuss policy incentives, financing models, and success stories where sustainable investment has driven economic growth, enhanced brand reputation, and positioned economies as leaders in the transition to a low-carbon future.</p>
Main Hall	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Amna al Dahhak, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard, Director of the Sustainable Enterprises, Productivity and Just Transition Department of ILO Prof. Lisa Sachs, Executive Director, Sustainable Investment Centre, Columbia University Prof Raekwon Chung, Ambassador of Climate Change & Member of the Board of Directors-Ban Ki-Moon Foundation Noble Prize Winner Mr. Hani Idris, Member of the Board of Directors at International Development Bank – IDB Group Ms. Roslyn Ng'eno, Senior Investment Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat Moderator: Mr. Jacopo Dettoni, Chief Editor, Financial Times fDi Intelligence, Member of WIC Executive Board
13:25-14:10	Executive Focus Start-ups and SMEs as Strategic FDI Catalysts <p>As the global investment landscape becomes increasingly dynamic, start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are emerging as powerful drivers of FDI and innovation-led growth. These agile firms not only generate local employment and entrepreneurial capacity but also act as entry points for international investors seeking early access to disruptive technologies, scalable business models, and high-potential markets. This session will explore how start-ups and SMEs are evolving from passive beneficiaries of FDI into</p>



	strategic enablers and co-creators of cross-border investment flows. Panellists will examine the role of ecosystems—including incubators, accelerators, innovation hubs, and government incentives—in attracting and anchoring FDI through vibrant SME sectors. The discussion will also cover how IPAs and development partners can better position SMEs as investable assets, including through targeted support, matchmaking platforms, and capacity-building initiatives.
Room 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jigar Sagar, CEO and serial investor, Trivil Holding • Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim, CEO of Transworld • Mr. Stratos Kamenis, Economist, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) • Mr. Marios Tannousis, CEO of Invest Cyprus • Mr. Abdelrahman Soliman, CEO of Daleel <p>Moderator: Mr. Muhammad AbuElgheit, Co-Founder & CEO - TechieMatter</p>

13:25-14:10	Thematic Session Private Equity Funds for Investment Impact
	<p>As global capital seeks both returns and impact, private equity funds are playing an increasingly influential role in shaping sustainable development outcomes. This high-level panel brings together leaders from across the private equity landscape to explore the formation and strategic potential of Private Equity Funds. The goal is to deepen collaboration among regional and international funds, share market intelligence, and align investment strategies with long-term economic transformation—particularly in emerging and frontier markets.</p> <p>Panelists will examine how the PEs and other special funds can serve as a means for co-investment, de-risking mechanisms, and blended finance, while promoting sustainable investment aligned with ESG standards. Discussions will also focus on creating investable pipelines, building trust with public sector partners, and strengthening the role of PE in catalyzing innovation, infrastructure, and inclusive growth.</p>
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Fisher Yang, Board Member, Rose Rock Capital Group, Rockefeller Family Member Enterprise • Mr. Oweis Zahran, Managing Director - OWS Capital CEO and Managing Partner - Melt Middle East CEO – OWS Automotive Industries Chairman - AJ Industries • Mr. Tim Throsby, Chairman of Phoenix Merchant Holdings (PMH) and Managing Partner at Phoenix <p>Moderator: Mr. Oleg Ilyin, Managing Partner - ASER Global</p>

13:25-14:10	In Focus Intro to the Services of the Sharjah Foundation to Support Pioneering Projects
In Arabic	The Sharjah Foundation to Support Pioneering Projects “Ruwad,” through its initiatives and annual activities, aims to promote the culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship within the community. It does so by offering introductory workshops on the services and privileges it provides in the field of entrepreneurship and in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in the Emirate of Sharjah. These workshops are specifically targeted



	toward employees of government departments and authorities in the Emirate, who represent one of the community segments included in the Foundation's plan to spread entrepreneurship culture. The goal is to encourage and motivate them to establish small national projects that contribute to strengthening local economic indicators across various sectors, while inspiring them to embark on their entrepreneurial journey and launch their own businesses.
Room 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker: Ms. Fatima Abdulrahem Alzarooni– Head of Membership Department, Sharjah Foundation for Supporting Entrepreneurial Projects

14:10 – 14:55	High-level Panel: Future Proofing Economics – From Risk to Resilience
	<p>This High-level Panel will examine how countries can move beyond managing immediate risks to building robust, future-shaping investment.</p> <p>High-level Panelists will discuss strategies to strengthen economic resilience through sustainable investment, diversification, and innovation, while ensuring inclusivity and long-term development impact. The conversation will highlight how proactive policies and strategic investments can turn global challenges into opportunities, shaping economies that are not only resilient to shocks but also drivers of sustainable growth and shared prosperity.</p>
Main Hall	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Fahad Al Gergawi, former President of WAIPA, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Ms. Nivruti Rai, MD&CEO, Invest India H.E. Zaher Al Qatarneh, Secretary General, Ministry of Investment of Jordan Mrs. Taliya Minullina, CEO of Tartarstan Investment Development agency <p>Moderator: Ms. Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA</p>

14:10 – 14:55	Executive Focus: From Policy to Performance: What Works in Attracting FDI
	<p>Turning well-designed policies into tangible FDI outcomes remains a critical challenge for many economies. This High-level Panel will explore what truly works in translating investment promotion strategies into measurable results. Speakers will share practical insights on aligning national policies with investor expectations, creating competitive regulatory and incentive frameworks, and building institutional capacity to deliver on commitments. Success stories will highlight how effective execution, strong aftercare, and performance-driven approaches can transform policy ambitions into sustained investment growth and development impact.</p>
Room 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Caroline King, WIC Executive Board Member, WAIPA Mr. Mathew Stephenson, Head of the WEF Mr. Yusif Abdullayev, Executive Director, AZPROMO Ms. Natalia Guerra, Officer-in-Charge, Investment Promotion Section, UNCTAD Mr. Talal Hilali, Head of Syria's Investment Authority <p>Moderator: Mr. Philipp Lemmerz, Partner, PWC</p>

14:10 – 14:55	Thematic Session: Smart Cities and Future Markets: Redefining Investment Frontiers
---------------	---



	As cities evolve into hubs of innovation and sustainability, they are emerging as the new frontiers for global investment. This session will explore how smart infrastructure, green technologies, and digital ecosystems are transforming urban landscapes, creating dynamic markets and new opportunities for investors. The panelists will discuss how future-ready cities can drive inclusive growth, attract high-value industries, and serve as catalysts for resilient and sustainable economic development.
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Mohammed Mulla Yaqoub, Assistant Director General, Kuwait FDI Authority Mr. Yuanjiang Sun, Head of Abu Dhabi Office, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Ms. Marwa Nahlawi, General Manager – Diamond Developers Mr. Ioannis Spanos, Vice President of Sustainability, Expo City Dubai <p>Moderator: Ms. Nancy Bahmad, Regional Director at Economic Platform</p>
14:10 – 14:55	In Focus Growth Capital Unlocked: Scaling UAE Businesses with the Emirates Growth Fund
	An interactive session by Emirates Growth Fund (EGF) for UAE founders ready to scale up their SME businesses. Discover how growth capital differs from traditional funding, what investors look for in scale-up businesses, and how EGF can partner with you to accelerate your expansion plans and build sustainable long-term success.
Room 3	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Matthew Singh – EGF – Head of Investments
14:55– 15:05	Keynote Capital That Grows with You: Empowering National Champions
	As the UAE's flagship AED 1 billion growth equity platform, the Emirates Growth Fund plays a pivotal role in empowering founders. This keynote will spotlight how EGF partners with the UAE's missing middle SMEs through patient capital and active value creation to scale enduring national champions and drive sustainable growth across priority sectors.
Main Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers: Mr. Khalifa Al Hajeri, CEO of Emirates Growth Fund
15:05 – 15:35	Fireside Chat De-Risking Investment Amid Global Shocks
	In an era defined by geopolitical tensions, financial volatility, and climate-related disruptions, how can investors and policymakers safeguard growth while navigating uncertainty? In this Spotlight Talk, Prof. Dr. Mohamed El-Erian will share sharp, actionable insights on de-risking investment strategies and building economic resilience. From practical ways to diversify portfolios to identifying opportunity zones that thrive in turbulence, this session promises to challenge conventional thinking and inspire new approaches to turning global shocks into strategic, long-term advantages.
Main Hall	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mohamed El Erian, Chief Economic Advisor at Allianz <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Sheikh Fahim Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Government Relations in Sharjah



15:35-16:20	High-level Panel: Creating a Seamless Investment Environment
	This session will explore how creating a seamless, transparent, and investor-friendly environment is key to driving sustainable and resilient growth. As competition for quality investment intensifies, the focus shifts to reducing barriers, streamlining processes, and leveraging digital innovation to enhance investor confidence. Panelists will discuss how regulatory reforms, technology-driven solutions, and stronger public-private collaboration can redefine the global investment experience—making it faster, more inclusive, and aligned with long-term development goals.
Main Hall	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister of Investment of Pakistan • Dr. James Zhan, Chair, WIC Executive Board of WAIPA & Founding Chair of UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative • H.E. Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov - Minister of the Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Minister of Economy Azerbaijan • Ms. Erum Al Alhawaish, Investor Outreach Deputyship Government Relation Head at SIPA - Saudi Arabia • Ms. Biviana Riveiro, Executive Director, Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (ProDominicana) • Mr. Anshul Gupta, Founder & CEO of Pan Gulf Group <p>Moderator: Mr. Yassir Zouaoui, Partner, Global Issues & Public Sectors, McKinsey</p>
15:35-16:20	Special Spotlight Turning Local Strength into Global Opportunities
	This Special Spotlight will highlight the pivotal role of business councils in bridging local capabilities with international markets. Featuring perspectives from leading councils in UAE, the session will examine how these platforms transform local strengths into global opportunities. The discussion will explore how councils foster trade connections, empower entrepreneurs, and create collaborative pathways for cross-border investment. By leveraging networks, mobilizing resources, and driving knowledge exchange, business councils serve as catalysts for turning regional expertise into engines of global growth, ensuring that local communities and industries thrive on the international stage.
Room 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Maciej Białko, Chairman of the Polish Business Council in the UAE Head of the Foreign Trade Office of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency • Eng. Gulizar Johnian, Architect, Chairwoman, International Businesswomen's Group (IBWG) • Ms. Aseel Hijjawi, Vice Chairperson, Jordanian Emirati Women Business Council (JEWBC) and Area Manager UAE, Royal Jordanian <p>Moderator: Ms. Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA</p>
15:35-16:20	In Focus Delivering the Future: How NXN and 'Waslah' are Enabling the UAE's Seamless Logistics Network
	This session will introduce NXN, the UAE's national logistics network built on four pillars: Send, Receive, Store, and Enable; and explores how it is redefining the logistics landscape by transforming traditional services into smart, connected, and future-ready solutions. From digital PO boxes and dark stores to quick commerce, NXN stands as a partner-



	neutral platform with a mission to drive trade, empower people, and shape the future. The session will also highlight 'Waslah', NXN's innovative digital logistics platform that is transforming how businesses and governments connect, deliver, and operate by integrating advanced technologies to create smarter delivery networks, enhance customer experience, and drive efficiency across the UAE's evolving e-commerce ecosystem.
Room 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jerees Tadros, Senior Director – Commercial & Business Development Mr. Rami Khader, Director of Digital Marketplace

15:35-16:20	In Focus Visit Sharjah – The Destination for Investment, Hospitality, Culture & Education
	Discover why Sharjah stands out as a leading destination for investment, hospitality, culture, and education. This session highlights the emirate's thriving business environment, world-class infrastructure, and commitment to sustainable development—showcasing the opportunities that make Sharjah a hub for investors, innovators, and global talent.
Room 3	

16:20 -17:05	High-level Panel: Aligning Global Finance with Sustainability
	This High-level Panel will examine how global financial systems can be leveraged to advance sustainable development goals. Experts will discuss the role of green financing, sustainability-driven investment strategies, and innovative financial instruments in driving long-term economic growth while addressing climate change and social impact. The session will highlight best practices, regulatory frameworks, and collaborative models that can align capital flows with sustainability priorities worldwide.
Main Hall	<p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Creon Butler, Senior Director, Chatham House (Royal Institute for International Affairs, UK) Mr. Koffi Fabrice Djossou, Principal Expert - Head of Innovation, Department of Sustainable Development Financing, West African Development Bank Mr. Ahmad Aboud, Group Chief Financial Officer of Ghassan Aboud Group Mr. Wolfgang Engel, General Manager & Chief Representative - OF Middle East & Africa, Institute of International Finance (IIF) Mr. Youssef Salem, CFO, ADNOC Drilling <p>Moderator: Mr. Ayhan K. Issacs, Head of Strategic Partnership & Economic Development - Founder Institute</p>

16:20-17:05	High-level Panel Harnessing International Investment for the Digital Economy
	The digital economy is reshaping global growth, offering unprecedented opportunities for innovation, inclusion, and competitiveness. This High-level Panel will explore how countries can attract and leverage international investment to build robust digital ecosystems, from fintech and e-commerce to AI, cloud infrastructure, and data centers. The panel will discuss the enabling policies, investment incentives, and public-private partnerships required to integrate into global digital value chains. Real-world success stories will highlight how strategic international investment can accelerate digital transformation, create skilled jobs, and drive sustainable economic diversification, particularly in emerging markets.
Room 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Feng Huag, Secretary General of Shanghai Foreign Investors Association



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Matthew Stephenson, Head of Investment and Services, World Economic Forum Mr. Yoshihiro Matsuda, Chairman, OF IoT & Mobile Forum (MCPC) Mr. Saqr Ereqat, Secretary General - Dubai Digital Asset Association Mr. Hassan Dayoub, AI Product Manager - ADRES <p>Moderator: Ms. Eve Laws, Founder/CEO/Chair - Maison IG/MEBAS</p>
16:20-17:05	<p>Thematic Session: FDI in Services: A Key Engine of Global Growth</p> <p>The services sector has become a dominant driver of global economic growth, attracting increasing volumes of high-value FDI. This session will examine how services—ranging from finance, logistics, and healthcare to digital platforms and creative industries—are reshaping global value chains and creating new opportunities for development. High-level Panelists will discuss what makes economies competitive in attracting service-related investments, the role of technology and innovation, and how policy frameworks can unlock the full potential of this fast-growing sector as a catalyst for jobs, skills, and inclusive prosperity.</p>
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Karina Bazuchi, Investment Officer at Apex-Brasil Ms. Caroline King, WIC Executive Board Member, WAIPA Mr. Ousmane Fall, Director of Non-Sovereign Operations and Private Sector, African Development Bank Ms. Mila Nenova, Executive Director of Invest Bulgaria <p>Moderator: Mr. Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investments and Services, World Economic Forum</p>
16:20-17:05	<p>Executive Focus AI and the Future of International Investment</p> <p>In this exclusive conversation, the guest of honor will share insights on how artificial intelligence is reshaping global investment strategies and decision-making. The discussion will explore AI's role in identifying emerging markets, assessing risks with greater precision, and driving sustainable and high-impact investments. Highlighting the host country's leadership in digital transformation, the session will provide a forward-looking perspective on how AI can unlock new opportunities and redefine competitiveness in the global investment landscape.</p>
Room 3	<p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Shahid Hussain, Founder, AI Global Exchange Forum Mr. Mohamed Emad, Founder & CEO, Brainsq Dr. Henry Loewendahl, Chief Executive Officer, Wavteq <p>Moderator: Mr. Sam Beni, Strategic Advisor - Tech Nation TEDx Speaker CEO - Platin VC & Pioneer of "Complex AI"</p>
20:00-22:00	Gala Dinner and Culture show
(off-site) Incl.	WAIPA Investment Awards Ceremony
SPARK (Invite Only)	



Day 2 | October 23rd, 2025

Time/ Location	JRCC - Main Hall	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
08:00-09:00	Registration			
09:00-09:45	High-level Panel Transforming Industries Through Smart Manufacturing	High-level Panel The Impact of AI and Sustainability on Investment Decisions	Executive Focus Data-Driven Investment: Unlocking Opportunities Through Statistical Insights	09:00 – 09:35 High-level Panel Visionary Investment in Cities, e-commerce, and Human Potential
09:45- 10:20	High-level Panel Sharjah 2030: Driving Innovation, Investment, and Sustainable Growth	09:45 – 10:45 High-level Consortium of Think Tanks Setting Future Agenda for Investment Policymaking	Special Spotlight for OIC Leveraging Insights from the OIC Investment Opportunities Report: The Role of IPAs in the Digital Economy and Digitalization of Investment Promotion Services	09:35 – 10:25 Thematic Session Why to Invest in Tourism? Global and Regional Trends
10:20-10:55	High Level Panel Beyond Borders: What Makes the UAE Home for Global Icons	10:45- 11:45 Thematic Session – ILO - Beyond the Bottom Line - Turning FDI into Better Jobs	Executive Focus Nation and City Branding as a Driver of FDI	10:25 – 10:55 In Focus Youth Initiatives & Entrepreneurship: From Ideas to Impact
11:00-11:30	Fireside Chat Future Investment Policy and its interface with other key policies		11:00 – 11:20 Executive Focus Catalysts of Capital: SWFs, PFs, and the Future of Global Investment	11:10 – 11:45 Thematic Session Streamlined Licensing and Policies for a Stronger Business Environment
11:30-11:55	Fireside Chat Scaling Change Through Investment		11:25 – 11:50 Thematic Session Looking at the Glass Half Full – The Comparative Advantage of SIDS, LLDCs, and LDCs	11:55 – 12:30 Thematic Session Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's Role as a Sustainable Infrastructure Financier
11:55-12:35	High-level Panel Reimagining Global Investment: Smart Policies for a Resilient Future	11:50 -12:50 Executive Focus – ITC Integrating Environmental & Social Priorities into IPA Strategies	11:50-12:35 WFZO-UN Tourism Fireside Chat Special Economic Zones and Other Enablers for Tourism Investment	
12:35-13:10	High Level Panel WAIPA @ 30: A Decade of Investment for Good		12:35 – 13:15 High-level Panel – UNIDO Scaling Impact:	



	in an era of Challenged Multilateralism		Aligning Investment Strategies with SDGs	
13:10–13:40	Fireside Chat Vision, Venture, Value: Shaping the Region Through Leadership			
14:30–16:30	Seal the Deal	WAIPA SCRIPA Closed Session Investment collaboration among regional IPA associations, groups and IOs		
16:30	WIC-SIF Closing Ceremony Conference Takeaways			

08:00-09:00	Registration

09:00-09:45	High-level Panel Transforming Industries Through Smart Manufacturing
	This High-level Panel explores how AI, robotics, IoT, and advanced analytics are reshaping production—from predictive maintenance and zero-defect quality to agile, demand driven supply chains. Speakers will unpack the business case: higher productivity, lower costs and emissions, and faster time to market. The discussion will also address critical enablers, standards and interoperability, cybersecurity, workforce upskilling, and financing models that accelerate SME adoption. Participants will leave with practical pathways for piloting, scaling, and measuring ROI on Industry 4.0 initiatives.
Main Hall	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Ebba Lund, CEO, International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP) Mr. Fuad Al-Attar, Senior Vice President Middle East at Siemens AG Eng. Yasmin Al Enazi, Executive Director IX.0 Hub CEO of Industry 4.0 by Maxbyte Technologies Moderator: Ms. Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA

09:00-09:45	High-level Panel The Impact of AI and Sustainability on Investment Decisions
	This Panel will explore how artificial intelligence and sustainability imperatives are reshaping global investment strategies and transforming value chains. It will discuss how AI-driven analytics enhance risk assessment and enable smarter capital allocation across sectors and supply networks. The session will examine how investors are integrating ESG criteria into decision-making processes to align with evolving market expectations, regulatory requirements, and long-term value creation goals. The discussion will surface insights into what drives strategic investment today. Special attention will be given to how AI and ESG considerations are influencing value chain resilience, transparency, and innovation. Panellists will also reflect on organizational culture and the human dimensions of sustainability and technology, as companies and investors adapt to shifting global demands.
Room 1	Speakers:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Djordjija Petkoski, Senior Fellow at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and the founder of Global CDL • Mr. Nauman Asif Mian, CFO - Bayt.com • Dr. Henry Loewendahl, Chief Executive Officer, Wavteq <p>Moderator: Mr. Escipi3n J. Oliveira-G3mez, Director Division of Country Programmes - International Trade Centre (ITC)</p>
09:00-09:45	Executive Focus Data-Driven Investment: Unlocking Opportunities Through Statistical Insights
	In an era where data is the new currency, harnessing statistical insights has become essential for identifying high-potential investment opportunities and improving decision-making. This session will guide participants on how to leverage FDI statistics, market intelligence tools, and comparative analytics to uncover emerging trends, prioritize sectors, and craft evidence-based investment promotion strategies. Through practical demonstrations and case examples, participants will learn how IPAs can use data not only to attract and target the right investors but also to monitor impact and optimize performance. By the end of the session, attendees will understand how robust data analysis can transform investment promotion into a more strategic, transparent, and results-driven process.
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Caroline King, WIC Executive Board Member, WAIPA • Mr. Fonz Morris, Founder & CEO, FNZMS • Mr. Chris Knight, Managing Director, Financial Times Locations <p>Moderator: Mr. Slava Belykh, Chief Technology Officer - ICOM Technology</p>
09:00- 09:35	High-Level Panel Visionary Investment in Cities, e-commerce, and Human Potential
	This high-level conversation will explore how visionary investments are transforming the future of cities, digital economies, and human capital development. The dialogue will delve into how strategic urban development, technology-driven ecosystems, and people-centric innovation can create resilient, competitive, and inclusive economies. The session will highlight opportunities for investors and policymakers to shape future-ready societies and thriving knowledge economies.
Room 3	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Zaher Al Qatarneh, Deputy Minister of Investment of Jordan • H.E. Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment of Bhutan • Mr. Abdulaziz Alhammadi, General Manager at NXN <p>Moderator: Mr. Jacopo Dettoni, Chief Editor, Financial Times fDi Intelligence, Member of WIC Executive Board</p>
09:45 - 10:20	High-level Panel Sharjah 2030: Driving Innovation, Investment, and Sustainable Growth
	This forward-looking session explores Sharjah's 2030 vision for fostering innovation, attracting sustainable investment, and driving long-term economic growth. Panelists will discuss key strategic sectors, policy frameworks, and partnerships shaping Sharjah's transformation into a hub for technology, industry, and sustainable development.
Main Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Sara Al Nuaimi, CEO at Entrepreneurship, Strategy, Leadership (Sheraa)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Khalid Jasim Al Midfa – Chairman of STCDA • H.E. Ahmed Al Qaseer, CEO of Shurooq • H.E. Mohamed Al Mushrakh, CEO, Invest In Sharjah • H.E. Hussain Al Mahmoudi, CEO of Sharjah Research Technology & Innovation Park (SPARK) <p>Moderator: Ms. Silvia Lambiase, Director of Strategic Partnerships, The Business Year</p>
09:45 - 10:45	<p>High-Level Consortium of Think Tanks Setting Future Agenda for Investment Policymaking</p> <p>In an era redefined by multifaceted global challenges and increasingly complex policy objectives, the need to bridge the gap between evidence and action has never been more urgent. This high-level session convenes leading global investment think tanks and academic centres, to generate forward-looking insights and evidence-based recommendations that can meaningfully inform investment policymaking at national, regional, and global levels. This Roundtable will explore emerging challenges and opportunities in investment policy research, with a focus on 1) identifying core priorities for a future-oriented investment policy analysis agenda, 2) developing a multidisciplinary framework for research policy in investment promotion and facilitation, 3) Strengthening the interface between research and policymaking to ensure alignment with real-world needs.</p>
Room 1	<p>Roundtable Chair: Dr. James Zhan, Chairman of WIC Executive Board of WAIPA & Founding Chair of UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Creon Butler, Senior Director, Chatham House (Royal Institute for International Affairs) • Prof. Lisa Sachs, Executive Director, Sustainable Investment Centre, Columbia University • Prof. Djordjija Petkoski, Senior Fellow at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and the founder of Global CDL • Mr. Mathew Stephenson, Head of Investment, WEF • Mr. James Cheo – Managing Director & Chief Investment Officer - Southeast Asia and India, HSBC • Ms. Ebba Lund, CEO, International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)
09:45-10:20	<p>Special Spotlight for OIC Leveraging Insights from the OIC Investment Opportunities Report: The Role of IPAs in the Digital Economy and Digitalization of Investment Promotion Services</p> <p>This session will present highlights from the Annual Report 2023 on how digitalization is changing FDI flows and investment climates in OIC countries. It will feature examples of successful digital investment initiatives by OIC IPAs, showing how technology increases efficiency and competitiveness. The session will address the ways in which investment promotion agencies (IPAs) are aligning with international standards, responding to the evolving requirements of investors, and navigating both challenges and opportunities</p>



	<p>associated with employing digital tools for investment targeting, stakeholder engagement, aftercare, and regulatory compliance.</p> <p>Through these exchanges, participants will gain enhanced awareness of the strategic importance of digitalization in attracting and facilitating investment across OIC countries. The session is expected to help identify priority actions for IPAs to accelerate their own digital transformation and to improve the quality of investor services. The event also seeks to strengthen partnerships and cooperation frameworks among IPAs, the IsDB, WAIPA and other development partners, laying the groundwork for sustained digital capacity building and long-term collaboration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IsDB Presentation from the OIC Investment Opportunities Report 2. Country Presentations: Promotion, facilitation, aftercare and advocacy 3. Q & As
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ismail Ersahin, CEO and Executive Director, WAIPA • Mr. Kadir Basboga, Senior Regional Integration and Trade Economist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) • Mr. Sahal Almarwai, Division Manager, Outreach & Events Management at Islamic Development Bank Group Business <p>Moderator: Ms. Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA</p>

09:35 – 10:25	Thematic Session Why to Invest in Tourism? Global and Regional Trends
Room 3	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Samer Alkharashi, Director, UN Tourism Regional Office for the Middle East • Ms. Heejung Yoon, Deputy Director General – <i>Invest KOREA</i>, TBC • A speaker from Kenya <p>Moderator: Daria Smith, <i>The Bench</i></p>

10:20-10:55	High Level Panel Beyond Borders: What Makes the UAE Home for Global Icons
	<p>This session brings together global icons to discuss what makes the UAE a destination of choice for international talent. The panel explores how the nation's visionary leadership, world-class infrastructure, and inclusive culture create an environment where creativity and excellence thrive. Speakers will also share insights into the projects and ventures they are pursuing in the UAE, showcasing how the country enables both personal success and global business growth.</p>
Main Hall	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amir Khan, Two Time World Champion Boxer • Mr. Edgar Davids, Artist, Former Professional Footballer and Entrepreneur • Mr. Patrice Evra, Former Professional Footballer, Investor and Entrepreneur <p>Moderator: Ms. Rania Saadi</p>

10:45-11:45	Thematic Session – ILO - WAIPA Beyond the Bottom Line: Turning FDI into More and Better Jobs
-------------	---



	This session brings together IPAs to share practical insights on how investment can serve as a catalyst for more and better jobs. While each agency operates in a distinct national context, all face a shared challenge: ensuring that investment drives not only growth, but also decent work, skills development, and sustainable progress. Participants will discuss how their agencies balance competitiveness with inclusion and share lessons that can guide other IPAs in maximizing the social and economic impact of investment.
Room 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdul Razak Baba, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre Mohammed Mulla Yaqoub, Deputy Director General for Business Development, Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Samet Akyüz, Strategy and Corporate Planning Unit Manager, Investment and Finance Office of the Presidency of Türkiye <p>Moderator: Ms. Githa Roelans, Head, Multinational Enterprises and Responsible Business Conduct Unit, SEPJTD, ILO</p>
10:20-10:55	Executive Focus Nation and City Branding as a Driver of FDI
	Nation and City Branding is a powerful tool to shape global perceptions that directly influence economic competitiveness. This session will explore how building and managing national perception impacts economic performance, specifically in attracting and retaining Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Participants will explore practical strategies and examples of how Nation Branding complements IPA efforts, strengthens investor confidence, and drives sustainable growth.
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. José Torres, CEO, Bloom Consulting (Nation and City Branding Global Director) Mr. Rashid Humaid Sahoo Al Suwaidi, Director of Operations at Sharjah Media City (Shams) Dr. Naresh Bana, Managing Director, BBV Consultants <p>Moderator: Mr. Mohamad Kassem, Founder, Invest Nations and FDEYE News</p>
10:25 -10:55	In Focus Youth Initiatives & Entrepreneurship: From Ideas to Impact
	This session highlights the pivotal role of youth in shaping the future economy through innovation and entrepreneurship. It explores how young leaders are transforming ideas into impactful ventures, supported by the UAE's dynamic ecosystem that fosters creativity, mentorship, and sustainable growth.
Room 3	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharjah Youth Council Members
11:00 -11:30	Fireside Chat Future Investment Policies and Its Interface with Other Key Policies
TBC the Timing	A dialogue between the Co-Chairs of the 2025 World Investment Conference and Sharjah International Investment Forum. Future policy for international investment and its interface with trade, tax, industrial policies and development strategies: trends and prospects – national, regional and global perspectives.
Main Hall	Speakers:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mohamed Al Suwaidi, UAE Minister of Investment Dr. James Zhan, Chairman, WIC Executive Board of WAIPA & Founding Chair of UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative
11:00-11:20	Executive Focus Catalysts of Capital: SWFs, PFs, and the Future of Global Investment <p>Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds are emerging as some of the most influential players shaping the future of global investment. With trillions of dollars under management, these institutional investors are increasingly driving capital toward sustainable infrastructure, technology, green energy, and long-term development projects. This High-level Panel will explore how SWFs and PFs are reimagining investment strategies in response to geopolitical shifts and evolving global value chains. It will discuss how partnerships with IPAs, governments, and private investors can unlock transformational opportunities, ensuring that capital flows not only generate competitive returns but also contribute to resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth.</p>
Room 2	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Leili Gerami Founder & Chairman, Private Family Office, UAE Chair, YPO Real Estate Industry Network (MENA) Mr. Swethal Kumar - Managing Director, The Catalyst Moderator: Ms. Vanessa Rameix, Regional Director – Qatar, The Business Year
11:10-11:45	Thematic Session Streamlined Licensing and Policies for a Stronger Business Environment <p>Building resilient enterprises requires more than financial support—it demands smart policies, streamlined licensing, and targeted regulatory reforms. This workshop will explore how governments and Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) can create an enabling environment that allows businesses to adapt, scale, and thrive amid global uncertainties. Participants will examine best practices in regulatory simplification, investor-friendly licensing frameworks, and policy incentives that enhance business continuity and attract long-term FDI. Through practical examples and interactive discussions, the session will highlight how reforms can strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems, improve investor confidence, and drive sustainable economic growth.</p>
Room 3	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ahmed Saif Bin Saed Al Suwaidi Deputy Director of the Commercial Affairs Department at the Sharjah Economic Development Departament (SEDD) Dr. MADs Wedell-Wedellsborg- Lecturer in International Business and Strategy, Henley Business School, University of Reading Mrs. Aya Issa, Managing Shareholder at IPT Energy Mr. Vahagn Mughnetsyan, Head of Investor Support and Aftercare Services, Enterprise Armenia Moderator: Ms. Jaspreet Randhawa, MD & Head of Investments - Burkhan World Investments Ltd.
11:30-11:55	Fireside Chat Scaling Change Through Investment <p>This 25-minute conversation will highlight how strategic investment can serve as a powerful catalyst for transformative change. Drawing on leadership experience in real estate, property technology, and entrepreneurship, as well as insights from engaging with startups and innovators, the discussion will explore how innovation, bold thinking, and smart capital</p>



	allocation can scale impact, drive industry evolution, and unlock opportunities for the next generation of entrepreneurs.
Main Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Amira Sajwani, Managing Director - DAMAC Properties, Founder and CEO - PRYPCO Mr. John Aguilar, Founder & Host of 'The Final Pitch', The Longest Running Reality Pitch TV Show in Asia <p>Moderator: Mr. Inzamam Rashid, Gulf Editor at Monocle</p>
11:25-11:50	Thematic Session Looking at the Glass Half Full – The Comparative Advantage of SIDS, LLDCs, and LDCs
	Often perceived through the lens of challenges, Small Island States, Landlocked States, and Least Developed States also offer untapped opportunities and distinctive advantages for investors. This session will shift the narrative, highlighting the unique selling points that make these economies attractive—from strategic geographic positioning, niche market access, and specialized resources to emerging opportunities in sustainable tourism, renewable energy, and digital services. This session will discuss how these countries can leverage their comparative advantages, craft compelling investment value propositions, and position themselves as resilient and high-potential destinations in a competitive global FDI landscape.
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Joe Phillips, Managing Director, Beyond Borders Development Group Ms. Rachel Pungu Luamba, Director General, National Agency for Investment Promotion, DR. Congo Ms. Tebantaake Keariki, Deputy Secretary, Kribati Ms. Josielle Rafidy, CEO of EDB Madagascar Mr. Kruger Phiri, Director General, Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) <p>Moderator: Mr. Dushyant Tharkor, Deputy Executive Director, WAIPA</p>
11:55 - 12:30	Thematic Session Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)'s Role as a Sustainable Infrastructure Financier
	This session will highlight AIIB's strategic role in financing sustainable infrastructure in emerging markets. Through insights from AIIB and its private sector partners, participants will explore how partnerships, environmental and social frameworks, and innovative investment approaches mobilize private capital for impactful, climate-aligned projects.
Room 3	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jens Thomassen, Partner at AP Moller Capital Representative, Alcazar Capital Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Senior Environment Specialist at Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Mr. Bradford M. Willis, Senior Associate at the Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment Representative, AIIB Environmental & Social (E&S) Team (optional) <p>Moderator: Mr. Kishlaya Misra, Senior Investment Officer, AIIB</p>



11:55 -12:35	High-level Panel Reimagining Global Investment: Smart Policies for a Resilient Future <p>The global investment landscape is shifting rapidly, partly driven by Non-Equity Modes (NEMs) such as contract manufacturing, franchising, and outsourcing, alongside a growing demand for sustainable and inclusive economic models. This High-level Panel will explore how NEMs can complement traditional FDI, creating new pathways for technology transfer, skills development, and value chain integration—particularly in emerging markets. High-level Panelists will discuss the smart policies needed to harness NEMs, from regulatory frameworks and incentives to capacity building for local enterprises. Real-world case studies will showcase how countries are leveraging NEMs and green investment principles to build resilient economies, enhance global competitiveness, and contribute to Sustainable Development.</p>
Main Hall	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Qaiser Almed Shaikh, Minister of Investment, Pakistan Dr. James Zhan, Chair, WIC Executive Board of WAIPA & Founding Chair of UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative Dr. Holger Bingmann, CEO & Founder of Thinking Arabian& Rethinking Africa Foundation, and President of ICC Germany Moderator: Prof. Lisa Sachs, Executive Director, Sustainable Investment Centre, Columbia University
11:50-12:50	Executive Focus ITC Integrating Environmental & Social Priorities into IPA Strategies <p>IPAs play a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development by aligning investment attraction strategies with the evolving Environmental, Social, and Governance regulations and principles that increasingly shape international trade and investment flows. This session will explore best practices and innovative approaches that IPAs can adopt to effectively integrate ESG considerations into their operations, policy advocacy, and investor engagement.</p>
Room 1	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Escipion Olivera-Gómez, Director, Division of Enterprise Competitiveness and Institutions, ITC Mr. Walid Farghal, CEO, AIM Congress Ms. Natalia Guerra, Officer-in-Charge, Investment Promotion Section, UNCTAD Mr. Ullas Marar, Head of the ICC Centre of Entrepreneurship, International Chamber of Commerce Ms. Mildred Santos, Deputy Technical Director, Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (ProDominicana) Mr. Kamal Chetty, Chief Executive Officer, Invest Fiji Mr. Saleh Saad Mohamed, Executive Director of the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) - Invest Zanzibar Moderator: Mr. Quan Zhao, Senior Program Officer, ITC
11:50-12:35	WFZO-UN Tourism Fireside Chat Special Economic Zones and Other Enablers for Tourism Investment <p>This session presents the framework and preliminary outcomes of the <i>White Paper on Free Economic Zones and Tourism Investment</i>, developed by UN Tourism in collaboration with the World Free Zones Organization (WFZO). It will include: 1) an overview of typologies and</p>



	models of free zones applicable to tourism, 2) early findings on best practices from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East; 3) case examples where regulatory innovation has enabled tourism growth through special regimes. The session will offer practical takeaways for IPAs, governments and tourism authorities exploring the use of free zones to attract sustainable investment. Preliminary results of this white paper will also be presented at the WFZO Annual Conference in China (early October 2025).
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Stefan Kratzsch, Head Sustainable Investments and Responsible Business Unit Division of Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, UNIDO Dr. Samir Hamrooni, CEO, World Free Zones Organization (WFZO) <p>Moderator: Ms. Laura Gasca Beltrán, Senior Project Specialist, Innovation, Education and Investments, UN Tourism</p>
12:35-13:10	High-level Panel WAIPA @ 30: Launching a Decade of Investment for Good in an era of Challenged Multilateralism
	This High-level Panel will explore how governments, development institutions, and private investors can drive transformative, impact-focused investment at a time when global cooperation is under pressure. Speakers will discuss strategies for mobilizing capital toward sustainable infrastructure, climate action, and inclusive economic growth despite rising geopolitical tensions. The session will highlight new models of public-private partnership, and how cross-border collaboration can be reimagined to ensure investment for good delivers measurable outcomes over the next decade. The session will also highlight the future role of WAIPA and IPAs in the new era of global economy.
Main Hall	<p>Speakers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. James Zhan, Chairman of WIC Executive Board, WAIPA; & Founding Chair of UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative Mr. Ismail Ersahin, CEO and Executive Director, WAIPA Mr. Deepak Bagla, former President of WAIPA, Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog, Government of India WAIPA President-Elect <p>Moderator: Ms. Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA</p>
12:35 – 13:15	High-level Panel UNIDO: Scaling Impact - Aligning Investment Strategies with the SDGs
	As the global investment landscape evolves, responsible and impact-driven investing has become a powerful tool for financing sustainable development. With emerging economies undergoing major transitions and seeking capital to accelerate development, demand for investments that create real impact is growing. Sovereign investors, private equity funds, and public finance actors are rethinking how to deploy capital that delivers both financial and development returns. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are becoming increasingly relevant, particularly through blended finance mechanisms that help mitigate risk and unlock private sector participation. In this context, IPAs play a vital role, not only facilitating capital flows focused on impact but also shaping bankable pipelines, contributing to de-risking projects, and aligning local priorities with global sustainability goals. Organized by UNIDO in collaboration with WAIPA, this High-level Panel explores how diverse mandates are converging around impact investment and SDG strategies. Building on the momentum of



	the FfD4, it will spotlight emerging trends, practical tools, and partnerships to ensure investments drive both impact and resilient economic growth.
Room 2	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Stefan Kratzsch, Head Sustainable Investments and Responsible Business Unit Division of Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, UNIDO Ms. Iva Hristova, Deputy Director, Global Partnerships & Development, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Ms. Alice Usanase, Lead, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Africa Finance Corporation Ms. Radwa Kmaouna, Undersecretary and Head of the International Relations Department, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, Egypt <p>Moderator: Mr. Dushyant Thakor, Deputy Executive Director, WAIPA</p>
13:10 – 13:40	<p>Fireside Chat: Vision, Venture, Value: Shaping the Region Through Leadership</p> <p>In this fireside chat, H.E. Mohamed Alabbar, one of the region's most visionary entrepreneurs, shares insights from his transformative projects across the UAE and the wider region. The conversation will explore how entrepreneurial vision, strategic ventures, and value creation intersect to drive economic growth, urban development, and social impact. Participants will gain a unique perspective on turning bold ideas into iconic projects, leveraging regional strengths, and fostering sustainable growth in dynamic markets.</p>
Main Hall	<p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mohamed Al Abbar, Founder of Emaar Properties and Noon.com and Chairman of Eagle Hills <p>Moderator: Mr. Kris Fade, Radio Host and Entrepreneur</p>
14:30-16:30	<p>Seal the Deal Startup Pitch & Awards</p> <p>This high-energy session will spotlight innovative startups founded by students and staff from the American University of Sharjah (AUS). Finalists will pitch their ventures to a High-level Panel of investors and industry leaders, competing for awards and potential funding. H.E. Sheikha Bodour Bint Sultan Al Qasimi will attend the event to celebrate and support the entrepreneurial spirit of the AUS community. The session will also serve as a platform for participants to connect with strategic partners, mentors, and investors, accelerating the growth of these homegrown ventures.</p>
Main Hall	Lead: Sharjah Investment Office
14:00-16:00	<p>WAIPA SCRIPA Roundtable (Closed) Investment Collaboration Among Regional IPA Associations, Groups and IOs</p> <p>This session will bring together leaders of regional IPA associations, investment groups, and international organizations to discuss how cross-regional collaboration can drive sustainable FDI flows and strengthen global investment ecosystems. The discussion will focus on sharing best practices, harmonizing investment policies and standards, and creating joint initiatives to promote investment in key sectors such as green energy, digital infrastructure, and manufacturing. Participants will also explore how regional cooperation platforms can support IPAs in capacity building, investor targeting, and aftercare, ultimately enhancing their role in global value chains and development impact.</p>
Room 1	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ismail Ersahin, CEO of WAIPA



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Escipion Olivera, Director, ITC • Mr. Stefan Kratzsch, UNIDO • Ms. Githa Roelans, ILO • Ms. Roslyn Ng'eno, Senior Investment Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat • Ms. Laura Gasca Beltrán, UN Tourism • Ms. Mildred Santos, Deputy Technical Director, Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic (ProDominicana) • Mr. Abdul Razak Baba, Deputy CEO of GIPC • Mr. Yunus Hoosen, Head of Invest SA or Ms. Rashmee Ragaven, Director, Investment Promotion, Invest SA (G20 IPAs Chair) • Mr. Emmanuel Noutary, General Delegate, ANIMA Network • Mr. Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment and Services, World Economic Forum • Ms. Natalia Guerra, Officer-in-Charge, Investment Promotion Section, UNCTAD • Mr. Sahal Ali Al-Marwai, Outreach Manager, THIQA <p>Moderator: Mr. Jose Henrique Vieira Martins, Chief Expert, WAIPA</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Ceremony & Conference Takeaways
	Co-Chairs of the WIC-SIF: Executive Summary of the Conference Outcomes
Main Hall	Closing remarks: Sharjah, UAE Ministry of Investment and WAIPA