



International Institute for
Sustainable Development

Economic Law and Policy Program

Ten Years Later—How International Investment Law Has Evolved Reflecting on IISD's 2005 Model International Agreement on Investment for Sustainable Development

International investment law and policy have gone through tectonic changes over the past decades. The web of over 3000 investment treaties at the bilateral and regional levels has left states exposed to extensive risks of being sued by foreign investors for an array of public welfare measures. Other flaws have also been brought to light, including the shortcomings of a dispute settlement system misappropriated from commercial law, the lack of obligations and responsibilities of multinational corporations, and the incursion of investment treaties into the use of basic economic development tools. Ten years ago IISD published its Model Investment Agreement for Sustainable Development, providing practical solutions for governments to address some of their biggest concerns. The IISD model provided a more balanced approach to rights and obligations of both investors and states, a clear recognition of the need of governments to link foreign investment to domestic development, and a judicial way of settling disputes, inspired by the World Trade Organization's dispute settlement mechanism. The concerns that IISD expressed ten years ago are now mainstream. The question is no longer whether there is a problem, but how to fix it. Countries and organizations across the globe have been inspired by proposals envisioned by IISD as they revised their investment treaty models and looked for alternative solutions.

IISD and the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva invite you to join us on Monday, November 2, 2015 to discuss developments over the past decade in international investment law and policy, the current state of play, and where we are heading.

Venue: Uni-Mail, Room 1170 (1st Floor of Uni-Mail), 40 Boulevard du Pont d'Arve, 1211 Geneva 4.

Date and time: Monday, November 2, 2015, 12.30 – 15.00 (lunch sandwiches and drinks will be served between 12.30-13.00).

Please confirm with Fariba DiBenedetto-Achtari <fdibenedetto@iisd.org> by Tuesday, October 27, 2015.

