



## INVITATION

# Webinar on Responsible Investment for Development and Human Rights: Assessing Different Mechanisms to Face Possible Investor-State Disputes from COVID-19 Related Measures

*South Centre Webinar Series on Development and COVID-19*

**30 July 2020, 14:00 – 15:30 (CEST)**

Developing and least developed countries, particularly in Africa, are especially vulnerable to the unfolding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and have introduced a number of measures aimed at limiting its negative effects. This includes measures targeting the social and economic dimensions of the pandemic and its effects, protecting domestic industries for strategic sectors (e.g. health industry, energy sector, telecommunication, food production, etc.), and safeguarding the economy of the State. However, these measures can also trigger risks of investment disputes by foreign investors under investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms.

This webinar is designed as an open forum to foster dialogue and share views among developing countries and other strategic partners for identifying and assessing the different mechanisms for States to face these challenges at the multilateral, regional and domestic level. With calls being made for establishing a multilateral moratorium on ISDS during the COVID-19 crisis and response<sup>1</sup>, the webinar will consider these and possible regional and domestic responses based on the principles of dispute prevention.

This webinar is part of a series being organized by the South Centre with the objective of gathering experts, policy-makers, government officials, practitioners and other stakeholders to discuss the different measures adopted by States to tackle the different challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic in their efforts to achieve and sustain the progress towards sustainable development in developing countries.

### **Format of Webinar**

The webinar will be held on Zoom communication platform. The log-on details will be shared with registered participants. The event will be organized as a panel discussion followed up with a Q&A session. Preliminary questions for panellists are welcomed to inform the discussion.

### **Registration**

To register for the webinar, please use the following link: <https://bit.ly/31YFB6b>

or send an email to Mr. Danish ([danish@southcentre.int](mailto:danish@southcentre.int)).

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<sup>1</sup> See Call for ISDS Moratorium during COVID-19 Crisis and Response at <http://ccsi.columbia.edu/2020/05/05/isds-moratorium-during-covid-19/>