



Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

A JOINT CENTER OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL
AND THE EARTH INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Request for Applications:

Workshop on Strengthening Technical Assistance for Resource-Rich African Countries

21-22 September 2015

African Development Bank offices, Pretoria

[Application deadline: Friday 17 July 2015](#)

The Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) and the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) are now accepting applications to attend an interactive workshop on useful tools, resources and technical support available to assist African host governments to better plan, prepare for, negotiate, monitor, and implement large-scale investment projects.

The workshop will take participants through sessions focusing on each stage of a large-scale investment in the extractive industries, agriculture and forestry, or infrastructure using the [Negotiation Support Portal](#), an online tool designed specifically for host country governments navigating the investment process.

Participants will discuss the need for and availability of technical assistance and resources and tools to support governments at each stage.

The workshop is primarily designed for policy makers and officials from African governments who work on international investment issues. Representatives from development agencies and civil society are also invited to apply.

The workshop is organized with support from:



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Dates: 21 - 22 September, 2015

Duration: 2 days

Location: AfDB offices, Pretoria, South Africa

Applications deadline: Friday 17 July 2015

How to Apply: To apply, please complete the application online [here](#) by Friday 17 July 2015.

Please direct any questions to Sam Szoke-Burke (s.burke@columbia.edu)

Please note: All sessions will take place in English with simultaneous French translation services provided.

About the [Negotiation Support Portal](#)



The Negotiation Support Portal (www.negotiationsupport.org) is an online web portal that aims to improve the accessibility and visibility of useful tools, resources, and technical support available to assist host governments planning, preparing for,

negotiating, monitoring, and implementing large-scale investment projects in the extractive industries, land & agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

The Portal includes:

- A [roadmap](#) that visually lays out the investment process, with a brief description of what should happen at each stage of the investment, featured tools and resources, and links to providers that provide support to host governments at each stage;
- A [searchable database of major support providers](#) that provide technical assistance on a not-for-profit basis to host governments in the investment process. The database includes detailed information about each provider including the types of support provided, the sector and stage at which the support is provided, the general response time for a request for assistance, and the fee arrangements for the types of support on offer. A hard copy of a [matrix of major negotiation support providers](#) (updated June 2014) is also available;
- A repository of [tools & resources](#) to better inform and guide governments at each stage of the investment; and
- A list of short term [trainings](#) and professional development courses aimed at government officials and policy makers in relation to one or more stages of the investment process in the extractive industries, land & agriculture, or infrastructure sectors.

The Negotiation Support Portal was developed by CCSI in consultation with a wide range of experts from government, the World Bank, civil society, and academia. Funding for the project was provided by the Australian Government and the United States Department of State. In June 2014, the Negotiation Support Portal was officially endorsed by the G7 CONNEX initiative.

About the Organizers

The **Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI)** is a leading applied research center and forum for the study, practice and discussion of sustainable international investment. CCSI focuses on analyzing important topical policy-oriented issues and constructing and implementing an investment framework that promotes sustainable development and the mutual trust needed for long-term investments that can be practically adopted by governments, companies and civil society. The Center undertakes its mission through interdisciplinary research, advisory projects, multi-stakeholder dialogue, educational programs, and the development of resources and tools. CCSI regularly collaborates with other Earth Institute centers and faculty, as well as institutions worldwide, integrating our

expertise in law, economics and investment with diverse fields of sustainable development.

The **African Legal Service Facility (ALSF)**, hosted by the African Development Bank, is a public international institution that provides legal advice and technical assistance in negotiation of complex commercial transactions, creditor litigation and capacity building to African countries. The ALSF was established in response to a call by African Ministers of Finance to provide assistance to African countries to strengthen their legal expertise and negotiating capacity in debt management and litigation, natural resources and extractive industries management and contracting, investment agreements, and related commercial and business transactions. The ALSF also grants and advances funds to African countries for legal advice from top legal counsel in these areas. The ALSF™s objective is to strengthen the legal capacities of African governments to negotiate and conclude equitable and sustainable agreements that deliver maximum economic value to African countries and protect their sovereign rights.

The **African Minerals Development Center (AMDC)** was established in December 2013 as a one-stop facility to spearhead the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). The AMV was adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government in February 2009 to promote the transformative role of mineral resources in the development of the continent. Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the AMDC works with member States and their national and regional organizations to promote the transformative role of mineral resources in the development of the continent through increased economic and social linkages. Under the overall leadership of the African Union Commission, AMDC™s implementing partners include the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The role of **DFAT** is to advance the interests of Australia and Australians internationally. This involves working to strengthen Australia™s security, enhancing Australia™s prosperity, delivering an effective and high quality aid program, and helping Australian travelers and Australians overseas.

Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment
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