UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS: KEY ISSUES Volume I



Note

UNCTAD serves as the focal point within the United Nations Secretariat for all matters related to foreign direct investment and transnational corporations. In the past, the Programme on Transnational Corporations was carried out by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (1975-1992) and the Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (1992-1993). In 1993, the Programme was transferred to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. UNCTAD seeks to further the understanding of the nature of transnational corporations and their contribution to development and to create an enabling environment for international investment and enterprise development. UNCTAD's work is carried out through intergovernmental deliberations, research and analysis, technical assistance activities, seminars, workshops and conferences.

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The material contained in this study may be freely quoted with appropriate acknowledgement.

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Preface

As my tenure as Secretary-General of UNCTAD comes to an end, I am proud to write this preface to one of the achievements of the secretariat over the past nine years, namely UNCTAD's contribution to the understanding of the complexities involved in international investment agreements – as documented in this three-volume edition of the Series on *Issues in International Investment Agreements*.

These three volumes are a careful effort to clarify and explain the complex issues related to investment negotiations. It should be a tool for all those involved in investment negotiations.

Geneva, September 2004

Rubens Ricupero Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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