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WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT **2010**

INVESTING IN A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY



UNITED NATIONS

**20th anniversary
edition**

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2010

INVESTING IN A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY



UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2010

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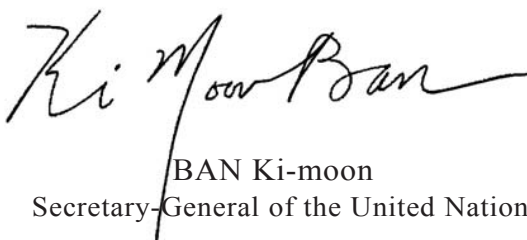
PREFACE

The global financial and economic recovery remains fragile, threatened by emerging risks, constraints in public investment and other factors. For the recovery to remain on track, private investment is crucial for stimulating growth and employment. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has a major role to play.

The *World Investment Report 2010* highlights a promising outlook: after a significant global FDI downturn in 2009, flows worldwide are expected to recover slightly this year, with a stronger recovery in 2011 and 2012. Overall, countries continue to liberalize and promote foreign investment, although there has also been an increase in new policy measures regulating foreign investment. Countries remain receptive towards FDI, seeing it as an important external source of development finance.

This year's *Report* focuses on climate change, and in particular the role of transnational corporations. As enterprises with formidable knowledge, cutting-edge technology, and global reach, TNCs are necessarily among the primary actors in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift towards a low-carbon economy. The Report stresses that with the right policy initiatives, incentives and regulatory framework, TNCs can and must contribute significantly to both mitigation and adaptation. It also proposes a global partnership to galvanize low-carbon investment and advocates concrete initiatives such as a new technical assistance centre to support policy formulation and implementation in developing countries.

This twentieth anniversary edition of the *World Investment Report* continues the series' tradition of serving as a leading reference for policymakers, investment promotion agencies, business, academia, civil society and others. The series has been contributing to investment policy-making at the national and international levels. I commend it to all involved in our common quest to build a better world for all.



BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York, June 2010

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