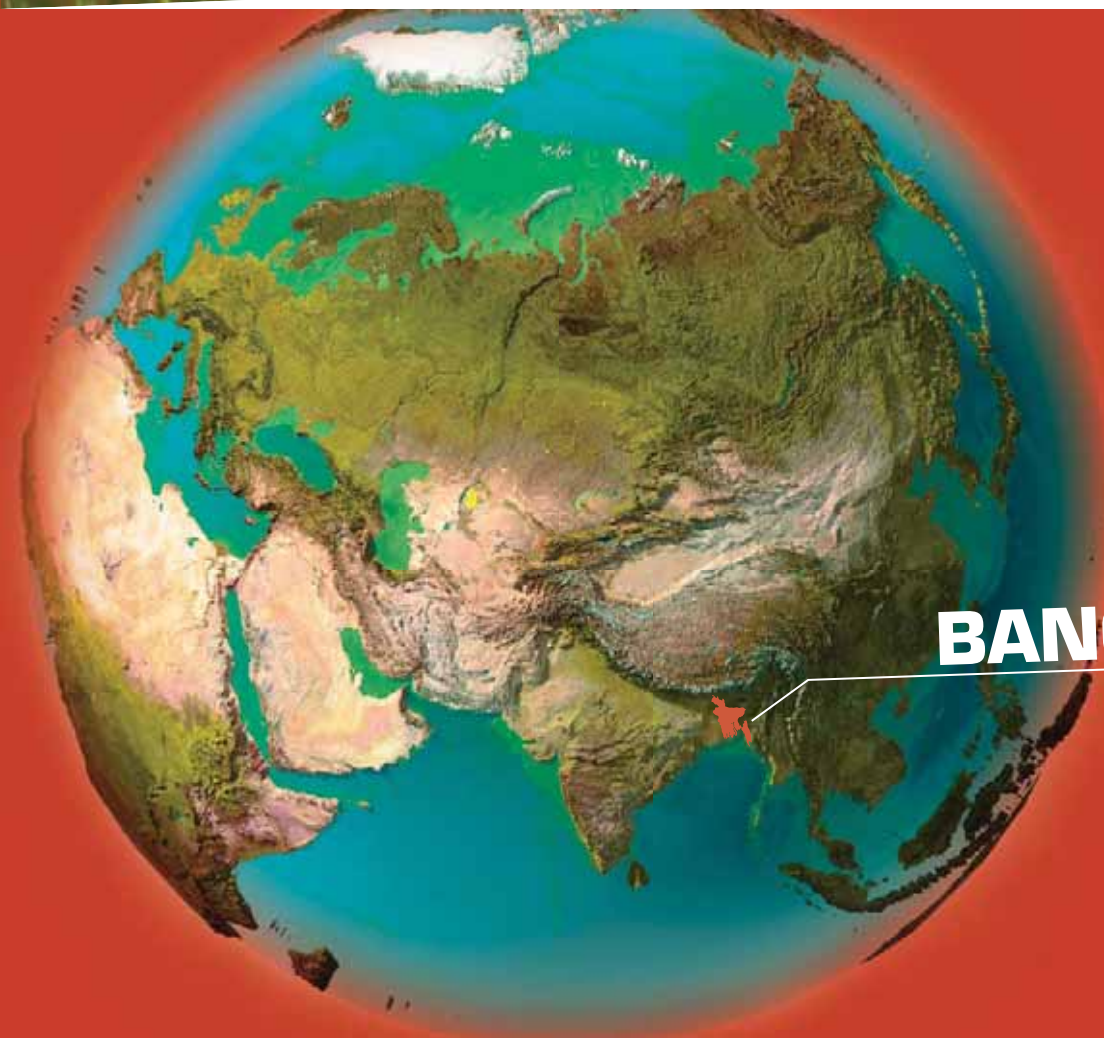




# investment policy review



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# investment policy review



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# Preface

The UNCTAD Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) are intended to help countries improve their investment policies and to familiarize governments and the international private sector with an individual country's investment environment. The reviews are considered by the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development. The recommendations of the IPR are then implemented with the technical assistance of UNCTAD. The support to beneficiary countries is delivered through a series of activities which can span over several years.

The Investment Policy Review of Bangladesh, initiated at the request of the Government of Bangladesh, was carried out through a fact-finding mission in March 2012, and is based on information current at that date and additional information made available to UNCTAD until 31 March 2013. The mission received the full cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, in particular the Ministry of Industries and the Board of Investment, the national investment promotion agency. The mission also benefited from the views of the private sector, foreign and domestic, and the resident international community, particularly bilateral donors and development agencies. A preliminary version of this report was discussed with stakeholders at a national workshop in Dhaka on 24 March 2013. The final report reflects written comments from various stakeholders, including ministries and agencies of the Government of Bangladesh.

The analysis is based on the 11 core principles of the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD) developed by UNCTAD and released in the World Investment Report 2012 (<http://ipfsd.unctad.org>). For Bangladesh, key among them are: (1) openness to investment and (2) policy coherence. It follows, to a large extent, the national investment policy guidelines of the IPFSD, which deal not only with concrete measures to formulate investment policies and regulations but also on ensuring their effectiveness, especially in terms of grounding investment policy in development strategy and ensuring implementation and institutional mechanisms for policy effectiveness.

In addition to reviewing the investment framework, the report, following a specific request from the Government of Bangladesh, elaborates on attracting FDI in physical infrastructure, including electricity, roads and ports.

This report was prepared by the Investment Policy Reviews Section under the supervision of Chantal Dupasquier, Chief of the Section. Joerg Weber, Head of the Investment Policies Branch in DIAE, and James Zhan, Director of DIAE, provided overall guidance. The report was written by Kiyoshi Adachi, Rory Allan, Hans Baumgarten, Quentin Dupriez and Philipp Grosskurth. Substantive contributions from Massimo Meloni are also acknowledged. The report benefited from comments and suggestions from Selim Raihan (University of Dhaka), Dale Honeck and Lizzie Medrano (World Trade Organization) and UNCTAD colleagues under a peer review process. Irina Stanyukova provided research assistance and Jovan Licina provided production support. The cover and other graphics were prepared by Nadège Hadjemian. Editorial assistance was provided by Cletus Dordunoo. This report was co-funded by the Government of Sweden.

Geneva, July 2013

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