

**Columbia University**

---

**From the Selected Works of Karl P. Sauvant**

---

2014

## Biography of Karl P. Sauvant

Karl P. Sauvant, *Columbia University*



Available at: [https://works.bepress.com/karl\\_sauvant/388/](https://works.bepress.com/karl_sauvant/388/)



**Karl P. Sauvant, Ph.D.**, is Lecturer-in-Law at Columbia Law School; Resident Senior Fellow at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), a joint center of Columbia Law School and the Earth Institute at Columbia University; Senior Fellow, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development; Fellow, Academy of International Business; and Honorary Fellow, European International Business Academy. He is also Co-chair of the CONNEX Support Unit Advisory Committee and Guest Professor at Nankai University, China.

Dr. Sauvant's current research interests focus on the reform of the international investment law and policy regime, the emergence of China as an important outward investor, and policies meant to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and increase its benefits. After having launched (in 2015) the idea of negotiating an international support program for sustainable investment facilitation, he follows the structured discussions on a multilateral investment facilitation agreement that began in the WTO in 2018. He also resumed advocacy (which had begun in 2004) for the establishment of an Advisory Center on International Investment Law. He teaches a seminar on FDI and public policy at Columbia Law School.

Dr. Sauvant has published extensively on issues related to economic development and various aspects of foreign direct investment. His work can be found on the following sites:

SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/author=2461782>

Bepress: [http://www.works.bepress.com/karl\\_sauvant/](http://www.works.bepress.com/karl_sauvant/)

Until February 2012, Dr. Sauvant was the Founding Executive Director of the Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment (VCC), the predecessor of CCSI. There, he sought to make the VCC a leading forum for discussions by scholars, policymakers, development advocates, students, and other stakeholders regarding issues related to FDI in the global economy and the regulatory framework governing it, focussing in particular on the contribution of FDI to sustainable development. Toward that objective, he launched the *Columbia FDI Perspectives*, the *Yearbook on International Investment Law and Policy*, the annual International Investment Conference, the Investment Law and Policy Speaker Series, the Emerging Markets Global Players project, and the *Columbia FDI Profiles*. Furthermore, Dr. Sauvant resumed advocacy (which had begun in 1998) for the establishment of a facility that helps emerging markets negotiate large-scale investment contracts with international investors, which led to the creation of the CONNEX Support Unit in January 2017 (<http://connex-unit.org>).

Until October 2011, he was also the Co-Director of the Millennium Cities Initiative at the Earth Institute, responsible for helping African cities attract investment.

Until July 2005, Dr. Sauvant was Director of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD's) Investment Division (DITE), the focal point in the UN system for matters related to FDI, as well as a major interface with the private sector. His responsibilities included managing the Division; promoting international consensus-building in the areas of FDI, technology and enterprise development; providing intellectual leadership for policy-oriented research; and conceptualizing and supervising technical assistance activities in this field. Dr. Sauvant had joined the United Nations in 1973 and, as of 1975, focused his work on

matters related to FDI. In 1988, he became responsible for the Organization's policy analysis work on FDI. In 2001, he became Director of DITE. While at the UN, he created, in 1991, the prestigious annual *World Investment Report*, of which he was the lead author until 2004. In 1992, Dr. Sauvant founded the journal *Transnational Corporations*, serving as its editor until 2005. He provided intellectual leadership and guidance to a series of 25 monographs on key issues related to international investment agreements, which were published in 2004/05 in three volumes, and he edited, together with Dr. John H. Dunning, a 20-volume *Library on Transnational Corporations* (published by Routledge). His name is associated with a great number of United Nations publications on FDI over his three decades of service in the UN.

Dr. Sauvant received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He is a national of Germany, married to Silvana F. da Silva, a national of Brazil.