

James X. Zhan



Dr. James Zhan Chairman of the Executive Board of the World Investment Conference (WAIPA). He also co-chairs the Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ). He is the Co-founder and Chairman Emeritus of the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, a global program in partnership with all major stock exchanges worldwide. Dr. Zhan is also Chief Advisor to the Chairman of the World Free Zones Organization, and serves on the fDi Editorial Advisory Board of the Financial Times.

Dr. Zhan is a senior fellow affiliated with the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and a Senior Research Associate at Oxford University. He holds several advisory positions at leading academic institutions, including Oxford University, Columbia University, Cornell University, and Fribourg University. He has previously served as an academic advisor for Cambridge University and Geneva University, and he is a professor and PhD supervisor at Nankai University.

Dr. Zhan was the founding co-chair of the Executive Board of the UN Family Business for Sustainable Development Initiative, in collaboration with the Family Business Network International. Additionally, he was co-founder of the World Investment for Development Alliance, which includes major international organizations focused on investment issues. He has held various advisory roles in international organizations, including Chief Strategic Advisor to the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and member of the Advisory Council of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). He was also a member of the Global Agenda Councils for Advanced Manufacturing and for Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum.

From July 2023 to June 2024, Dr. Zhan served as the Chief Advisor to the Secretary-General at the United Nations Trade and Development Agency (UNCTAD). From 2008 to 2023, he was the Senior Director of Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD, and the Chief Editor of the UN *World Investment Report* and the *Transnational Corporations* journal.

During his tenure at the United Nations, Dr. Zhan provided strategic policy advice to heads of state, ministers, and parliaments in over 100 developing and developed countries. He advised and facilitated cabinet strategic meetings, as well as numerous global summits, including G20, BRICS, ACP, APEC, and ASEAN. He led the formulation of the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD), a global framework for a new generation of investment strategies and policies used in over 150 countries and major regional groupings. He established the World Investment Forum in 2008, leading it to become a prominent global platform for investment stakeholders worldwide.

Dr. Zhan has published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters on investment, trade, technology, and sustainable finance-related economic and legal issues. He has also led the preparation of over 300 publications and substantive reports for the United Nations. Dr. Zhan frequently appears in leading global business and economic media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Financial Times, and Bloomberg.