

Summaries of *Doing Business* reforms in 2011/12

2007 2012 2011
2005 2009 2004
2008 2006 2010 2013

Doing Business reforms affecting all sets of indicators included in this year's report, implemented from June 2011 to June 2012.

- ✓ *Doing Business* reform making it easier to do business
- ✗ *Doing Business* reform making it more difficult to do business

ALBANIA

- ✓ **Starting a business**
Albania made starting a business easier by making the notarization of incorporation documents optional.
- ✓ **Paying taxes**
Albania made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the vehicle tax and encouraging electronic filing for taxes.

ALGERIA

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Algeria improved access to credit information by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans to be included in the database.

ANGOLA

- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Angola made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for customers applying for an electricity connection to obtain authorizations from the 2 utility companies.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- ✗ **Trading across borders**
Antigua and Barbuda made trading across borders more difficult by increasing the number of documents required to import.

ARGENTINA

- ✗ **Trading across borders**
Argentina increased the time, cost and number of documents needed to import

by expanding the list of products requiring nonautomatic licenses and introducing new preapproval procedures for all imports.

ARMENIA

- ✓ **Getting electricity**
Armenia made getting electricity easier by streamlining procedures and reducing connection fees.
- ✓ **Protecting investors**
Armenia strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for shareholder approval of related-party transactions, requiring greater disclosure of such transactions in the annual report and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

AUSTRALIA

- ✓ **Getting credit**
Australia strengthened its secured transactions system by adopting a new national legal regime governing the enforceability of security interests in personal property and implementing a unified collateral registry.

BANGLADESH

- ✗ **Getting electricity**
Bangladesh made getting electricity more difficult by requiring all customers to meet 7% of their electricity needs through solar energy, making it necessary to install solar panels.
- ✓ **Getting credit**
Bangladesh improved access to credit information by establishing an online platform for sharing such information.

BELARUS

- ✗ **Starting a business**
Belarus made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost of business

Reforms affecting the employing workers indicators are included here but do not affect the ranking on the ease of doing business.

registration and the cost to obtain a company seal.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Belarus made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate and encouraging the use of electronic filing and payment systems.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Belarus enhanced its insolvency process by exempting the previously state-owned property of a privatized company from the bankruptcy proceeding, requiring that immovable property not sold in the auction be offered to creditors for purchase and allowing immovable property to be sold without proof of state registration in a bankruptcy auction if there are no funds to pay for the registration.

BELIZE

✓ **Trading across borders**

Belize reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

BENIN

✓ **Starting a business**

Benin made starting a business easier by appointing a representative of the commercial registry at the one-stop shop and reducing some fees.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Benin reduced the time required to obtain a construction permit by speeding up the processing of applications.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Benin reduced the time required to trade across borders by implementing an electronic single-window system integrating customs, control agencies, port authorities and other service providers at the Cotonou port.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Benin made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new code of civil, administrative and social procedures.

BHUTAN

Employing workers

Bhutan introduced a minimum wage.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

✓ **Registering property**

Bosnia and Herzegovina made it easier to transfer property between companies by computerizing the commercial registry.

✗ **Getting credit**

Bosnia and Herzegovina made access to credit information more difficult by stopping the private credit bureau's collection of credit information on individuals.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Bosnia and Herzegovina eased the administrative burden of filing and paying social security contributions by implementing electronic filing and payment systems.

BOTSWANA

✗ **Paying taxes**

Botswana made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the profit tax rate.

✓ **Trading across borders**

In Botswana exporting and importing became faster thanks to the introduction of a scanner by the country's customs authority and an upgrade of South Africa's customs declaration system, both at the Kopfontein-Tlokweng border post.

BRAZIL

✗ **Registering property**

Brazil made transferring property more difficult by introducing a new certificate of good standing on labor debts, adding to the number of due diligence procedures.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Brazil made enforcing contracts easier by implementing an electronic system for filing initial complaints at the São Paulo civil district court.

Employing workers

Brazil increased the notice period applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal of employees.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Brunei Darussalam made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a one-stop shop for preconstruction approvals.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

BULGARIA

✓ **Starting a business**

Bulgaria made starting a business easier by reducing the cost of registration.

BURUNDI

✓ **Starting a business**

Burundi made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirements to have company documents notarized, to publish information on new companies in a journal and to register new companies with the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Burundi made obtaining a construction permit easier by eliminating the requirement for a clearance from the Ministry of Health and reducing the cost of the geotechnical study.

✓ **Registering property**

Burundi made property transfers faster by establishing a statutory time limit for processing property transfer requests at the land registry.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Burundi reduced the time to trade across borders by enhancing its use of electronic data interchange systems, introducing a more efficient system for monitoring goods going through transit countries and improving border coordination with neighboring transit countries.

CAMBODIA

✓ **Getting credit**

Cambodia improved access to credit information by establishing its first private credit bureau.

✗ **Paying taxes**

Cambodia introduced a new tax on immovable property.

CAMEROON

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Cameroon made enforcing contracts easier by creating specialized commercial divisions within its courts of first instance.

CANADA

✓ **Getting electricity**

Canada made getting an electricity connection easier by reducing the time needed for external connection works.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

✗ **Dealing with construction permits**

The Central African Republic made obtaining a construction permit more costly.

CHAD✓ **Starting a business**

Chad made starting a business easier by setting up a one-stop shop.

CHINA✓ **Starting a business**

China made starting a business less costly by exempting micro and small companies from paying several administrative fees from January 2012 to December 2014.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

China simplified the process of obtaining a construction permit by streamlining and centralizing preconstruction approvals.

COLOMBIA✓ **Starting a business**

Colombia made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to purchase and register accounting books at the time of incorporation.

COMOROS✓ **Starting a business**

The Comoros made starting a business easier and less costly by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration and by reducing the fees to incorporate a company.

✓ **Registering property**

The Comoros made it easier to transfer property by reducing the property transfer tax.

CONGO, DEM. REP.✓ **Starting a business**

The Democratic Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by appointing additional public notaries.

CONGO, REP.✓ **Starting a business**

The Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by eliminating or reducing several administrative costs associated with incorporation.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

The Republic of Congo made dealing with construction permits less expensive by reducing the cost of registering a new building at the land registry.

COSTA RICA✓ **Starting a business**

Costa Rica made starting a business easier by streamlining the process of obtaining a sanitary permit for low-risk activities.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Costa Rica streamlined the process for obtaining construction permits by implementing online approval systems.

✓ **Getting credit**

Costa Rica improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Costa Rica made paying taxes easier for companies by implementing electronic payment for municipal taxes—though it also introduced a registration flat tax.

CROATIA✓ **Paying taxes**

Croatia made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the health insurance contribution rate.

CYPRUS✓ **Registering property**

Cyprus made property transfers faster by computerizing its land registry.

x **Paying taxes**

Cyprus made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the special defense contribution rate on interest income and introducing a private sector special contribution and a fixed annual fee for companies registered in Cyprus. At the same time, it simplified tax compliance by introducing electronic filing for corporate income tax.

CZECH REPUBLIC✓ **Registering property**

The Czech Republic made registering property easier by allowing the cadastral office online access to the commercial registry's database and thus eliminating the need to obtain a paper certificate from the registry before applying for registration at the cadastre.

✓ **Paying taxes**

The Czech Republic made paying taxes faster for companies by promoting the use of electronic facilities.

✓ **Trading across borders**

The Czech Republic reduced the time to export and import by allowing electronic

submission of customs declarations and other documents.

Employing workers

The Czech Republic increased the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and reduced the severance pay applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal of employees with 1 year of service.

DENMARK✓ **Registering property**

Denmark made registering property easier by introducing electronic submission of property transfer applications at the land registry.

DOMINICA✓ **Trading across borders**

Dominica reduced the time to import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

DOMINICAN REPUBLICx **Paying taxes**

The Dominican Republic increased the corporate income tax rate.

ECUADORx **Registering property**

In Ecuador property transfers became more time consuming as a result of implementation problems in transferring authority over property records to the municipality of Quito.

EL SALVADOR✓ **Getting credit**

El Salvador improved access to credit information through a new law regulating the management of personal credit information.

x **Paying taxes**

El Salvador introduced an alternative minimum tax.

ETHIOPIA✓ **Getting credit**

Ethiopia improved access to credit information by establishing an online platform for sharing such information and by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

x **Paying taxes**

Ethiopia introduced a social insurance contribution.

FIJI**x Starting a business**

Fiji made starting a business more difficult by requiring new companies applying for a business license to obtain a certificate from the national fire authority and a letter of compliance from the Ministry of Labor.

x Dealing with construction permits

Fiji made obtaining a construction permit more expensive by implementing a fee for the fire department clearance.

x Registering property

Fiji made transferring property more difficult by requiring parties to a property transaction to obtain a capital gains tax clearance certificate from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority.

✓ Paying taxes

Fiji made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate. At the same time, Fiji introduced a capital gains tax.

GABON**x Registering property**

In Gabon registering property became more difficult because of longer administrative delays at the land registry.

GEORGIA**✓ Getting electricity**

Georgia made getting electricity easier by simplifying the process of connecting new customers to the distribution network and reducing connection fees.

✓ Getting credit

Georgia strengthened its secured transactions system through an amendment to the civil code allowing a security interest to extend to the products, proceeds and replacements of collateral.

✓ Paying taxes

Georgia made paying taxes easier for companies by enhancing the use of electronic systems and providing more services to taxpayers.

✓ Trading across borders

Georgia reduced the time to export and import by creating customs clearance zones.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Georgia made enforcing contracts easier by simplifying and speeding up the proceedings for commercial disputes.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Georgia expedited the process of resolving insolvency by establishing or tightening

time limits for all insolvency-related procedures, including auctions.

GERMANY**✓ Paying taxes**

Germany made paying taxes more convenient for companies by canceling ELENA procedures and implementing an electronic filing and payment system for most taxes.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Germany strengthened its insolvency process by adopting a new insolvency law that facilitates in-court restructurings of distressed companies and increases participation by creditors.

GHANA**x Trading across borders**

Ghana added to the time required to import by increasing its scanning of imports and changing its customs clearance system.

GREECE**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Greece reduced the time required to obtain a construction permit by introducing strict time limits for processing permit applications at the municipality.

✓ Protecting investors

Greece strengthened investor protections by requiring greater immediate and annual disclosure of material related-party transactions.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Greece enhanced its insolvency process by abolishing the conciliation procedure and introducing a new rehabilitation proceeding.

GRENADA**✓ Trading across borders**

Grenada reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

GUATEMALA**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

Guatemala made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based approval system.

GUINEA**✓ Starting a business**

Guinea made starting a business easier by setting up a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration.

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Guinea made obtaining a building permit less expensive by clarifying the method for calculating the cost.

✓ Getting electricity

Guinea made getting electricity easier by simplifying the process for connecting new customers to the distribution network.

HUNGARY**x Starting a business**

Hungary made starting a business more complex by increasing the registration fees for limited liability companies and adding a new tax registration at the time of incorporation.

✓ Getting credit

Hungary improved access to credit information by passing its first credit bureau law mandating the creation of a database with positive credit information on individuals.

✓ Paying taxes

Hungary made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the community tax. At the same time, Hungary increased health insurance contributions paid by the employer.

✓ Trading across borders

Hungary reduced the time to export and import by allowing electronic submission of customs declarations and other documents.

ICELAND**x Paying taxes**

Iceland increased the corporate income tax rate.

INDIA**✓ Dealing with construction permits**

India reduced the time required to obtain a building permit by establishing strict time limits for preconstruction approvals.

INDONESIA✓ **Getting electricity**

Indonesia made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for new customers applying for an electricity connection to show a neighbor's electricity bill as a way to help determine their address.

IRAN, ISLAMIC REP.✗ **Starting a business**

The Islamic Republic of Iran made starting a business more difficult by requiring company founders to obtain a criminal record clearance to register a new company.

✓ **Protecting investors**

The Islamic Republic of Iran strengthened investor protections by requiring greater immediate disclosure of related-party transactions.

IRELAND✓ **Starting a business**

Ireland made starting a business easier by introducing a new online facility for business registration.

✓ **Registering property**

Ireland made property transfers less costly by introducing a single stamp duty rate for transfers of nonresidential property. It also extended compulsory registration to all property in Ireland.

ISRAEL✓ **Registering property**

Israel made transferring property easier by tightening time limits for tax authorities to process capital gains self-assessments on property transfers.

ITALY✓ **Getting electricity**

Italy made getting electricity easier and less costly by improving the efficiency of the utility Acea Distribuzione and reducing connection fees.

✓ **Registering property**

Italy made transferring property easier by digitizing cadastral maps of properties and making the maps available to notaries online.

JAMAICA✓ **Paying taxes**

Jamaica made paying taxes easier for companies by allowing joint filing and payment of all social security contributions.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Jamaica reduced the time to import by allowing customs entries to be lodged at night.

JAPAN✓ **Paying taxes**

Japan made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a restoration surtax for a 3-year period.

KAZAKHSTAN✓ **Starting a business**

Kazakhstan made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to pay in minimum capital within 3 months after incorporation.

✓ **Getting credit**

Kazakhstan strengthened secured creditor rights by introducing new grounds for relief from an automatic stay during rehabilitation proceedings.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Kazakhstan strengthened its insolvency process by introducing an accelerated rehabilitation proceeding, extending the period for rehabilitation, expanding the powers of and improving qualification requirements for insolvency administrators, changing requirements for bankruptcy filings, extending the rights of creditors, changing regulations related to the continuation of operations, introducing a time limit for adopting a rehabilitation plan and adding court supervision requirements.

KENYA✓ **Paying taxes**

Kenya made paying taxes faster for companies by enhancing electronic filing systems.

KOREA, REP.✓ **Getting electricity**

Korea made getting electricity less costly by introducing a new connection fee schedule and an installment payment system.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Korea strengthened investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial related-party transactions.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Korea made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Korea expedited the insolvency process by implementing a fast track for company rehabilitation.

KOSOVO✓ **Starting a business**

Kosovo made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement and business registration fee and streamlining the business registration process.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Kosovo strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for shareholder approval of related-party transactions, requiring greater disclosure of such transactions in the annual report and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

Employing workers

Kosovo introduced a minimum wage.

LAO PDR✓ **Starting a business**

Lao PDR made starting a business easier by allowing entrepreneurs to apply for tax registration at the time of incorporation.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Lao PDR made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Lao PDR reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA electronic data interchange system at the Thanaleng-Friendship Bridge border crossing.

LATVIA**Employing workers**

Latvia eliminated requirements for notification of third parties in cases of redundancy dismissal.

LESOTHO✓ **Starting a business**

Lesotho made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by eliminating the requirements for paid-in minimum capital and for notarization of the articles of association.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Lesotho strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements

for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases of abusive related-party transactions.

LIBERIA

✓ Getting electricity

In Liberia obtaining an electricity connection became easier thanks to the adoption of better procurement practices by the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

✓ Paying taxes

Liberia made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the profit tax rate and abolishing the turnover tax.

✓ Enforcing contracts

Liberia made enforcing contracts easier by creating a specialized commercial court.

LITHUANIA

✓ Starting a business

Lithuania made starting a business easier by introducing online registration for limited liability companies and eliminating the notarization requirement for incorporation documents.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Lithuania made resolving insolvency easier by establishing which cases against the company's property shall be taken to the bankruptcy court, tightening the time frame for decisions on appeals, abolishing the court's obligation to individually notify creditors and other stakeholders about restructuring proceedings and setting new time limits for creditors to file claims.

MACEDONIA, FYR

✓ Starting a business

FYR Macedonia made starting a business easier by simplifying the process for obtaining a company seal.

MADAGASCAR

✓ Starting a business

Madagascar made starting a business easier by allowing the one-stop shop to deal with the publication of the notice of incorporation.

MALAWI

x Dealing with construction permits

Malawi made dealing with construction permits more expensive by increasing the cost to obtain the plan approval and to register the property.

x Paying taxes

Malawi introduced a mandatory pension contribution for companies.

✓ Trading across borders

Trading across borders became easier in Malawi thanks to improvements in customs clearance procedures and transport links between the port of Beira in Mozambique and Blantyre.

MALAYSIA

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Malaysia made dealing with construction permits faster by improving the one-stop center for new buildings and by reducing the time to connect to telephone service.

✓ Registering property

Malaysia substantially reduced the number of days it takes to register property transfers.

MALDIVES

x Paying taxes

Maldives introduced a goods and service tax, a business profit tax and additional social contributions.

MALI

✓ Paying taxes

Mali made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a new tax on land. At the same time, Mali simplified the process of paying taxes by introducing a single form for joint filing and payment of several taxes.

MAURITIUS

✓ Registering property

Mauritius made property transfers faster by implementing an electronic information management system at the Registrar-General's Department.

✓ Getting credit

Mauritius improved access to credit information by starting to collect and distribute payment information from retailers and beginning to distribute both positive and negative information.

MEXICO

✓ Starting a business

Mexico made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

✓ Getting electricity

In Mexico the distribution utility made getting electricity easier by streamlining procedures, offering training opportunities to private contractors, using a geographic information system (GIS) to map the electricity distribution network and increasing the stock of materials.

MOLDOVA

✓ Protecting investors

Moldova strengthened investor protections by allowing the rescission of prejudicial related-party transactions.

x Paying taxes

Moldova made paying taxes more costly for companies by reintroducing the corporate income tax—but also made tax compliance easier by encouraging electronic filing and payment.

x Enforcing contracts

Moldova made enforcing contracts more difficult by abolishing the specialized economic courts.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Moldova strengthened its insolvency process by extending the duration of the reorganization proceeding and refining the qualification requirements for insolvency administrators.

MONGOLIA

✓ Starting a business

Mongolia made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

✓ Getting credit

Mongolia improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

✓ Protecting investors

Mongolia strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements for related-party transactions.

MONTENEGRO

✓ Dealing with construction permits

Montenegro made dealing with construction permits less expensive by reducing the cost of pre- and postconstruction procedures.

✓ Getting credit

Montenegro improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

Employing workers

Montenegro lowered redundancy costs—though it also reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and increased paid annual leave.

MOROCCO✓ **Starting a business**

Morocco made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

✗ **Registering property**

Morocco made registering property more costly by increasing property registration fees.

NAMIBIA✓ **Getting electricity**

Namibia made getting electricity easier by reducing the time required to provide estimates and external connection works and by lowering the connection costs.

✗ **Registering property**

Namibia made transferring property more difficult by requiring conveyancers to obtain a building compliance certificate beforehand.

NETHERLANDS✓ **Starting a business**

The Netherlands made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a declaration of nonobjection by the Ministry of Justice before incorporation.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

The Netherlands made dealing with construction permits simpler by merging several approvals and implementing an online application system.

✓ **Protecting investors**

The Netherlands strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions.

✓ **Trading across borders**

The Netherlands made importing easier by introducing a new web-based system for cargo release at the port terminals in Rotterdam.

NEW ZEALAND✓ **Getting credit**

New Zealand improved access to credit information by allowing credit bureaus to collect positive information on individuals.

NIGER✓ **Trading across borders**

Niger reduced the time to import by expanding and optimizing the use of an electronic data interchange system for customs clearance.

NIGERIA✗ **Paying taxes**

Nigeria introduced a new compulsory labor contribution paid by the employer.

NORWAY✓ **Starting a business**

Norway made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement for private joint stock companies.

✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Norway reduced the time required to obtain a building permit by implementing strict time limits for construction project approvals.

OMAN✓ **Getting credit**

Oman improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

Employing workers

Oman reduced the maximum number of working days per week and increased the paid annual leave applicable for employees with 1 year of service.

PANAMA✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Panama made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the fees for a permit from the fire department's safety office and by accelerating the process at the building registry for obtaining a certificate of good standing and for registering the new building.

✓ **Registering property**

Panama made property transfers faster by increasing working hours at the registry and reorganizing the caseload of its staff.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Panama made paying taxes easier for companies by enhancing the electronic filing system for value added tax and simplifying tax return forms for corporate income tax—though it also began requiring companies to pay corporate income tax monthly rather than quarterly.

PERU✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Peru made obtaining a construction permit easier by eliminating requirements for several preconstruction approvals.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Peru strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

POLAND✓ **Registering property**

Poland made property registration faster by introducing a new caseload management system for the land and mortgage registries and by continuing to digitize the records of the registries.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Poland made paying taxes easier for companies by promoting the use of electronic filing and payment systems—though it also increased social security contributions.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Poland made enforcing contracts easier by amending the civil procedure code and appointing more judges to commercial courts.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Poland strengthened its insolvency process by updating guidelines on the information and documents that need to be included in the bankruptcy petition and by granting secured creditors the right to take over claims encumbered with financial pledges in case of liquidation.

PORTUGAL✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Portugal made obtaining construction permits easier by implementing strict time limits to process urban projects and simplifying the associated procedures.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Portugal made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic single window for port procedures.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Portugal made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new insolvency law that expedites liquidation procedures and creates fast-track mechanisms both in and out of court.

Employing workers

Portugal increased the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and reduced the severance pay applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal.

PUERTO RICO (U.S.)✓ **Paying taxes**

Puerto Rico (territory of the United States) made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by introducing a new internal revenue code and tax codification and by reducing the effective corporate income tax rate.

QATAR✓ **Trading across borders**

Qatar reduced the time to export and import by introducing a new online portal allowing electronic submission of customs declarations for clearance at the Doha seaport.

ROMANIA✓ **Starting a business**

Romania made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain a clearance certificate from the fiscal administration agency.

✓ **Getting credit**

Romania strengthened its legal framework for secured transactions by allowing the automatic extension of security interests to the products, proceeds and replacements of collateral.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Russia made obtaining a construction permit simpler by eliminating requirements for several preconstruction approvals.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Russia eased the administrative burden of taxes for firms by simplifying compliance procedures for value added tax and by promoting the use of tax accounting software and electronic services.

RWANDA✓ **Getting electricity**

Rwanda made getting electricity easier by reducing the cost of obtaining a new connection.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Rwanda made enforcing contracts easier by implementing an electronic filing system for initial complaints.

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE✗ **Dealing with construction permits**

São Tomé and Príncipe made obtaining a construction permit more expensive by increasing the fees.

SAUDI ARABIA✗ **Getting electricity**

Saudi Arabia made getting electricity more expensive by increasing the connection fees.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Saudi Arabia made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing online filing and payment systems for social security contributions.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Saudi Arabia made enforcing contracts easier by expanding the computerization of its courts and introducing an electronic filing system.

SERBIA✓ **Starting a business**

Serbia made starting a business easier by eliminating the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Serbia made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a private bailiff system.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Serbia strengthened its insolvency process by introducing private bailiffs, reducing the starting prices for the sale of assets, prohibiting appeals, expediting service of process and adopting an electronic registry for injunctions to make public all prohibitions on the disposal or pledge of movable or immovable property.

SIERRA LEONE✓ **Registering property**

Sierra Leone made registering property easier by computerizing the Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment.

✓ **Getting credit**

Sierra Leone improved access to credit information by establishing a public credit registry at its central bank and guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC✓ **Starting a business**

The Slovak Republic made starting a business easier by speeding up the processing of applications at the one-stop shop for

trading licenses, income tax registration and health insurance registration.

✓ **Paying taxes**

The Slovak Republic made paying taxes easier for companies by implementing electronic filing and payment of social security and health insurance contributions.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

The Slovak Republic made enforcing contracts easier by adopting several amendments to the code of civil procedure intended to simplify and speed up proceedings as well as to limit obstructive tactics by the parties to a case.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

The Slovak Republic improved its insolvency process by redefining the roles and powers of creditors and trustees, strengthening the rights of secured creditors and redefining rules for the conversion of restructuring into a bankruptcy proceeding.

Employing workers

The Slovak Republic increased the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts, eliminated requirements for notification of third parties in cases of redundancy dismissal and reduced redundancy costs.

SLOVENIA✓ **Protecting investors**

Slovenia strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Slovenia made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by implementing electronic filing and payment of social security contributions and by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Slovenia strengthened its insolvency process by requiring that the debtor offer creditors payment of at least 50% of the claims within 4 years; giving greater power to the creditors' committee in a bankruptcy proceeding; prohibiting insolvency administrators from allowing relatives to render services associated with the bankruptcy proceeding; and establishing fines for members of management that violate certain obligations or prohibitions.

SOUTH AFRICA✓ **Trading across borders**

South Africa reduced the time and documents required to export and import through its ongoing customs modernization program.

SPAIN✓ **Trading across borders**

Spain reduced the time to import by further expanding the use of electronic submission of customs declarations and improving the sharing of information among customs and other agencies.

✓ **Resolving insolvency**

Spain strengthened its insolvency process by making workouts easier, offering more protections for refinancing agreements, allowing conversion from reorganization into liquidation at any time, allowing reliefs of the stay under certain circumstances and permitting the judge to determine whether an asset of the insolvent company is necessary for its continued operation.

Employing workers

Spain temporarily allowed unlimited duration of fixed-term contracts.

SRI LANKA✓ **Starting a business**

Sri Lanka made starting a business easier by computerizing and expediting the process of obtaining a registration number for the Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund.

✓ **Registering property**

Sri Lanka made registering property faster by introducing an electronic system at the land registry in Colombo.

✓ **Getting credit**

Sri Lanka strengthened its secured transactions system by establishing an electronic, searchable collateral registry and issuing regulations for its operation.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Sri Lanka reduced the time to export by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

ST. KITTS AND NEVISx **Trading across borders**

St. Kitts and Nevis made it more expensive to export by increasing the cost of operations at the port of Basseterre.

SURINAMEx **Trading across borders**

Suriname increased the time to export by involving more customs departments in clearing exports.

SWAZILAND✓ **Paying taxes**

Swaziland introduced a value added tax.

SWEDENx **Registering property**

In Sweden property transfers became more time consuming during implementation of a new information technology system at the land registry.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC✓ **Getting credit**

Syria improved access to credit information by establishing an online system for data exchange between all banks and microfinance institutions and the central bank's credit registry.

TAIWAN, CHINA✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Taiwan, China, made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based and self-regulatory inspection system and improving operational features of the one-stop shop for building permits.

✓ **Protecting investors**

Taiwan, China, strengthened investor protections by increasing disclosure requirements for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases where such transactions are abusive.

TAJIKISTAN✓ **Protecting investors**

Tajikistan strengthened investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial related-party transactions.

TANZANIA✓ **Starting a business**

Tanzania made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for inspections by health, town and land officers as a prerequisite for a business license.

x **Dealing with construction permits**

Tanzania made dealing with construction permits more expensive by increasing the cost to obtain a building permit.

x **Trading across borders**

Tanzania made importing more difficult by introducing a requirement to obtain a certificate of conformity before the imported goods are shipped.

THAILAND✓ **Starting a business**

Thailand made starting a business easier by allowing the registrar at the Department of Business Development to receive the company's work regulations.

✓ **Paying taxes**

Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

TIMOR-LESTE**Employing workers**

Timor-Leste reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and also introduced a wage premium for night work.

TOGO✓ **Starting a business**

Togo made starting a business easier and less costly by reducing incorporation fees, improving the work flow at the one-stop shop for company registration and replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders' criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company's registration.

Employing workers

Togo increased the wage premium for weekly holiday work and the severance payment in cases of redundancy dismissal.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO✓ **Registering property**

In Trinidad and Tobago property transfers became faster thanks to speedier issuance of clearance certificates by the Water and Sewerage Authority.

✓ **Trading across borders**

Trinidad and Tobago reduced the time to export and import by launching the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system and simplifying the process for obtaining a certificate of origin.

TURKEY✓ **Dealing with construction permits**

Turkey made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to build a shelter in nonresidential buildings with a total area of less than 1,500 square meters.

✓ **Enforcing contracts**

Turkey made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new civil procedure law.

UGANDA

✗ Registering property

Uganda made transferring property more difficult by introducing a requirement for property purchasers to obtain an income tax certificate before registration, resulting in delays at the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance. At the same time, Uganda made it easier by digitizing records at the title registry, increasing efficiency at the assessor's office and making it possible for more banks to accept the stamp duty payment.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Uganda strengthened its insolvency process by clarifying rules on the creation of mortgages, establishing the duties of mortgagors and mortgagees, defining priority rules, providing remedies for mortgagors and mortgagees and establishing the powers of receivers.

UKRAINE

✓ Starting a business

Ukraine made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for company incorporation as well as the requirement to have incorporation documents notarized.

✓ Registering property

Ukraine made property transfers faster by introducing an effective time limit for processing transfer applications at the land cadastre in Kiev.

✓ Paying taxes

Ukraine made paying taxes easier by implementing electronic filing and payment for medium-size and large enterprises.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

✓ Starting a business

The United Arab Emirates made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a company to prepare a name board in English and Arabic after having received clearance on the use of office premises.

✓ Getting electricity

In the United Arab Emirates the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority made getting electricity easier by introducing an electronic "one window, one step" application process allowing customers to submit and track their applications online and reducing the time for processing the applications.

✓ Paying taxes

The United Arab Emirates made paying taxes easier for companies by establishing

an online filing and payment system for social security contributions.

UNITED KINGDOM

✓ Paying taxes

The United Kingdom made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

Employing workers

The United Kingdom increased the severance pay applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal.

URUGUAY

✓ Paying taxes

Uruguay made paying taxes easier for small and medium-size companies by fully implementing an online filing and payment system for capital, value added and corporate income taxes and by improving the online facilities for social security contributions.

✓ Trading across borders

Uruguay reduced the time to import by improving port efficiency and introducing electronic payment and predeclaration systems for customs.

UZBEKISTAN

✓ Starting a business

Uzbekistan made starting a business easier by introducing an online facility for name reservation and eliminating the fee to open a bank account for small businesses.

✓ Getting credit

Uzbekistan improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

✓ Trading across borders

Uzbekistan reduced the time to export by introducing a single window for customs clearance and reduced the number of documents needed for each import transaction.

✓ Resolving insolvency

Uzbekistan strengthened its insolvency process by introducing new time limits for insolvency proceedings and new time limits and procedures for the second auction and by making it possible for businesses to continue operating throughout the liquidation proceeding.

VANUATU

✗ Dealing with construction permits

Vanuatu made obtaining a construction permit more cumbersome by making a preliminary environmental assessment mandatory and made it more expensive by increasing the fees.

VENEZUELA, RB

✗ Starting a business

República Bolivariana de Venezuela made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost of company incorporation.

✗ Paying taxes

República Bolivariana de Venezuela made paying taxes more costly and difficult for companies by introducing a sports, physical activities and physical education tax.

Employing workers

República Bolivariana de Venezuela introduced a new labor code that prohibits redundancy dismissals.

VIETNAM

✓ Starting a business

Vietnam made starting a business easier by allowing companies to use self-printed value added tax invoices.

WEST BANK AND GAZA

✗ Registering property

West Bank and Gaza made transferring property more costly by increasing the property transfer fee.

✓ Getting credit

West Bank and Gaza improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers' right to inspect their personal data.

ZAMBIA

✓ Resolving insolvency

Zambia strengthened its insolvency process by introducing further qualification requirements for receivers and liquidators and by establishing specific duties and remuneration rules for them.