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As a scholar of international investment law, I primarily focus on the impact of investment treaty law on national policy-making and governance. My most recent research projects have used empirical methods to investigate the responses and reactions to investment treaty law and arbitration in developing states. I have conducted case-studies across a number of developing states – from Nigeria to Turkey and Jordan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Georgia. In my research I draw on the analysis of national legal materials, doctrinal analysis of investment jurisprudence as well as interviews with government officials. The overarching aim of my recent explorations have been to identify the so-called ‘nationally felt’ approaches to international investment law and arbitration.

My scholarship, teaching and leadership roles are shaped by my lived experiences as a female scholar from the global South. I received my legal training in Uzbekistan, where I also completed my first PhD (2005) and Bachelor’s degree in law (1999). After a period of time practising and teaching law in Uzbekistan, I began my academic career in the UK as a British Chevening scholar. I joined Liverpool Law School in September 2010 after completing a PhD in international investment law (2010) and LLM (2006) at the University of Birmingham where I was also the recipient of the Postgraduate Research Award.

The focus of my research on international investment law and developing states has brought me close to international organisations and government agencies involved in the design and reform of international investment treaties and national investment policies. I have served as an expert for the UNCTAD Investment Division and the World Health Organisation, supporting their capacity building initiatives on the IIA reforms in developing states. Most recently, my expertise in international investment law resulted in my appointment as an AHRC-ESRC FCO Knowledge Exchange Fellow working on investment issues with colleagues across Whitehall.

Beyond my work on knowledge exchange and impact, I have been committed to a broader agenda of diversifying, contextualising and pluralising international investment law and scholarship. I am a director of the Liverpool Economic Governance Unit (LEGU) and a Convenor of the Asian Society of International Law interest group on International Investment and Economic Law. I am also one of the founding members of the IEL Collective. As part of these roles, I have organised and delivered a number of workshops, conferences and training initiatives, all aimed at fostering inclusive, evidence-based, critical and reflective approaches to researching, teaching and making of international investment law. This has been a truly rewarding experience. It goes beyond building extended and lifelong partnerships with scholars across the globe, particularly in developing states, but also constantly broadens and challenges my scholarly understanding of international

investment law in action, variously understood or misunderstood, embraced and resisted, guarded and reformed. As a member of the ISDS Academic Forum, my objective is to continue advocating for these values in the ongoing collective efforts to reform ISDS, its practices and institutions.