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Some of MIGA's roles in the global market for investment were foreseen as:

- (1) augmenting the capacity of other investment insurers through coinsurance or reinsurance;
- (2) insuring investment in countries restricted or excluded by the policies of other insurers;
- (3) serving investors who do not have access to other official insurers; and
- (4) providing coverage to investors of different nationalities in a multi-national syndicate, thereby affording convenience in insurance contracting and claims settlement.

MIGA's charter requires it to emphasize economic, developmental and political considerations in its underwriting decisions, and its multi-national ownership provides it with the ability to issue coverage to funds brought from abroad by nationals of developing countries -- thereby addressing capital flight problems.

The insurance programme focuses on protecting investors against losses from currency transfer, expropriation, and war and civil disturbance. In addition to covering new projects, MIGA can insure investments to expand, privatize, or financially restructure existing projects registered with MIGA before the investments are made or irrevocably committed. MIGA has great flexibility in covering different forms of investment. Eligible investments include equity contributions in cash or in kind, loans made or guaranteed by equity holders, and certain forms of non-equity direct investment. MIGA also insures project loans made by financial institutions if the loans are related to an investment covered, or to be covered, by the Agency. The standard policy covers investments for 15 years, although it may be extended to 20 years.

MIGA also furnishes a variety of technical assistance services to its member countries to assist their efforts to stimulate foreign direct investment. These services cover the spectrum from policy advisory services to improve investment regimes to assistance in foreign investment promotion and legal matters affecting foreign investment.