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The Enhanced Integrated Framework

UNCTAD XIII special event

Held at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, on 23 April 2012

Summary prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Ministerial Working Breakfast opened with statements from H.E. Mr. Lekh Raj Bhatta Mahato, Minister of Commerce and Supplies of Nepal; Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD; Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; and Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The meeting was moderated by Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). Keynote speakers were H.E. Mr. Patiendé Arthur Kafondo, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Handicraft of Burkina Faso; H.E. Mr. Kebba Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of the Gambia; and H.E. Ms. Siti Kassim, Minister of Employment and Government Spokesperson for the Comoros. Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes of UNCTAD, made the concluding remarks.

2. The event brought together government ministers of LDCs, EIF partner agencies and representatives of the International Trade Centre, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services, EIF trust manager. The aim of the meeting was to identify the ways and means to accelerate the delivery of results of the integration of trade into national development strategies in relation to EIF. The main issues discussed were as follows: EIF's contribution to trade and development programmes and how to enhance delivery of results; how best to deliver support to LDCs' efforts to build a coherent trade, investment and structural reform framework aimed at tackling supply-side constraints and maximizing the realization of market opportunities; and how to strengthen EIF agency support for LDCs to meet their trade-related needs.

3. The Programme was a valid instrument to mainstream trade into the development plans of LDCs and a tangible manifestation of delivery of Aid for Trade. As such, EIF was a platform for LDCs to start engaging in, among other activities, export diversification and building productive capacities to create employment and reduce poverty. Diagnostic trade integration studies (DTIS) and the action matrix were effective means of achieving ownership of the EIF process and prioritizing trade and investment issues to be incorporated in national development plans. There was also a common understanding that an enhanced trade and investment nexus in future DTIS could help tackle supply constraints, taking into account lessons learned.
 4. The EIF Programme had produced tangible results in the field through the formulation of DTIS and their updates (30), and through tier-one projects (30) to support national implementation arrangements. Participants said that it was important to speed up the implementation of tier-two projects and obtain their approval (26 such projects were in the pipeline).
 5. On the role of the agencies in the Programme, increased assistance was needed in capacity-building and in implementing the various phases of the EIF processes, especially in the development of tier-two proposals.
 6. In view of the mid-term evaluation of the Programme to be conducted in 2012, participating LDCs expressed their full commitment to facilitate the successful completion of this exercise.
 7. There was a general consensus that more time was needed for the Programme to deliver its full potential in assisting LDCs efforts to benefit from international trade and to grasp market access opportunities.
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