



Australia is giving an additional 3 million Australian dollars to create a better trading future for Least Developed Countries

The Government of Australia is committing an additional 3 million Australian dollars to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a programme that works in support of sustainable trade and development outcomes for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) thereby helping them integrate into the global trading system.

Australia's strong partnership and support to LDCs in building up their trading capacity to create resilient economies is reinforced by their latest contribution to the multi-donor trust fund, currently supported by 23 donors. In May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on LDCs (UN LDC-IV) in Istanbul, Australia joined other Members at the Conference to agree on a new 10-year programme of action for LDCs and followed up its commitment to boost the LDCs' trading capacity by making a contribution to the EIF Trust Fund of 2 million Australian dollars.

The EIF programme is working and delivering in 47 of the poorest countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, backed by donors, international core partner agency and other partner support. The programme is focused on developing national institutional trade capacities and supporting catalytic projects addressing a range of sectors targeting export growth, income generation in support of pro-poor livelihoods, compliance with standards and value addition, and in services including in tourism.

Australia's Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Tim Yeend states, *"Australia believes that trade continues to be a critical engine for economic growth, development, and poverty reduction, especially in the world's poorest countries. By building trade capacity in a range of critical areas, the EIF's important work helps LDCs reap the full benefits of an open, rules-based multilateral trading system. This work remains as relevant as ever, with two Pacific LDCs joining the WTO this week in a signal of their commitment to harnessing trade for their development. We look forward to working with the LDCs and all EIF partners to build on the program's successes."*

H.E. Dr. Mothae Anthony Maruping, Chairman of the EIF Board, remarks, *"I warmly welcome Australia's contribution to the EIF programme. Australia has demonstrated active support to the programme through its contributions to the EIF Trust Fund and the role it plays in promoting trade, economic growth and sustainable development in LDCs. In Lao PDR for example, Australia is a major contributor to the World Bank-managed Trade Development Facility, which builds on the national EIF framework and has managed to lever US\$6.8 million to build on product standards, facilitate trade, increase cross-border movement of goods and boost regional and global economic integration. This has helped Lao PDR deliver real results, for instance in the garments sector and in improving the quality of basic services for the poor people. With more efforts from all donors, this would be a forward step in advancing the fight against poverty and helping in developing a sustainable trading future for LDCs."*

Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Executive Director of the EIF Secretariat, comments, *"I highly commend Australia's commitment to supporting efforts aimed at lifting LDCs out of poverty. Australia's additional contribution to the EIF programme comes at a critical stage when the programme is doubling efforts in enhancing the effectiveness of National Implementation Structures and focusing on accelerating the delivery of results on the ground with a view to supporting national efforts addressing trading challenges and improving the lives of farmers, traders, business people and local households in LDCs and recently graduated countries. LDCs now need to build on the strong LDC political leadership, commitment shown by, development partners and implementing partner agencies to ensure the attainment of results that will have a positive impact on poor people's livelihoods, all the more so set against the backdrop of the global economic recovery and the 2015 Millennium Development Goal time-horizon."*

Notes to editors:

1. The Enhanced Integrated Framework is a multi-donor programme that supports Least Developed Countries to be more active players in the global trading system by helping them tackle supply-side constraints to trade.

2. The programme is currently helping 47 of the poorest countries worldwide, supported by a Multi-Donor Trust Fund with contributions from 23 donors. 30 projects are already under way since 2009.

3. The Enhanced Integrated Framework Executive Secretariat (EIF ES), housed in the WTO, and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as EIF Trust Fund Manager work in support of the programme.

ENDS:

For further information, please contact the Enhanced Integrated Framework Executive Secretariat (EIF ES), Communications Officer, on +41227396065 or visit: www.enhancedif.org