

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DOROTHY TEMBO, EIF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UN LDC-IV EIF HIGH LEVEL LUNCH
HILTON HOTEL, 10 MAY 2011
ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

The Director-General – WTO,
Right Honourable the Prime Ministers,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies, Heads of Delegation and Missions,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and privilege to be among their Excellencies this afternoon to give an update on the progress made in driving forward the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The last occasion I had to share EIF successes and the way forward on the programme was with the Honourable Ministers on 1 December 2009, when Trade Ministers met on the side-lines of the Seventh WTO Ordinary Ministerial Meeting in Geneva. With increasing momentum, the right foundations are being laid, and a range of achievements have been made, which, with your permission, I will now outline over the next few minutes.

I am pleased to report that the programme is now fully up and running and starting to make strong progress against the challenging set of aims we have set ourselves as the EIF partnership to support institutional capacity building and address trade-related priority needs. Since we began in 2009, already 21 EIF countries have been benefiting from our assistance to strengthen trade institutions and make trade work for development in LDCs. In total, the programme commitments stand at more than US\$40 million.

The EIF has made headway for trade to be put at the heart of many country planning processes and broader trade-related initiatives, with wider and more representative national consultative mechanisms, increasingly involving the political level. This has enhanced participatory decision-making and improved partnership with the private sector, development partners, local organizations and other key EIF partners. Your valued presence here today, Excellencies, attests to the importance you attach to the programme.

With the EIF work programme to move forward on identifying key priorities for trade support measures, in line with national priorities, a number of EIF countries are updating their Diagnostic Trade Integration Study, or DTIS. The EIF programme has approved a budget of approximately US\$2.2 million to finance 10 EIF countries preparing for these updates.

Another important focus for the EIF has been building linkages with National Development Planning processes and wider national trade and development initiatives. This is under way in 15 countries: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, The Gambia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

Support for countries to leverage broader Aid for Trade funding and support development partners' efforts to coordinate and manage their trade assistance has been part and parcel of how the EIF programme adds value at country level with examples being, to name but a few: Cambodia's trade Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) leveraging EU, DANIDA, UNIDO and World Bank Trust Fund assistance of approximately US\$16.5 million; and Lao PDR's World Bank-managed Trade Development Facility with EU and AusAid funding of US\$6.8 million, and with other donor support from Germany and Japan.

I am sure that you will agree with me that these are valuable and encouraging achievements. However, it is now important for us to redouble our efforts as EIF partners to ensure that we focus on delivering targeted and concrete results on the ground. In this way, we will continue to support improving the livelihoods of countless communities worldwide.

What is outstanding is for LDCs to fully be able to continue to integrate into the global economy through a concerted effort to tackle supply-side constraints to trade. The next period of the EIF programme has a specific focus on projects that can urgently be taken forward for delivery and will have a direct impact on farmers, traders, producers and businesses. Already we have a promising number of projects in the pipeline from 13 countries on a wide range of sectors targeting export growth and income generation in support of pro-poor livelihoods, compliance with standards and value addition, as well as in services including in tourism. This means approximately US\$45 million would be committed by the end of 2011. All EIF core and strategic partners stand ready to provide all the financial and human resource support required to develop projects and put them in motion.

Against this backdrop, there is a real need for the LDCs to take a strong leadership in the EIF process and to be seen by all to show a high level of commitment. If there is any doubt about the leadership or commitment of the LDCs to the EIF process, the EIF will lack credibility, there will be a low or no buy-in from the donor community and other stakeholders, and the programme will not be able to continue to achieve its targeted outputs and goals. Considerable efforts have already been put in place to ensure that the EIF is owned and driven by the beneficiaries, the LDCs, and it is now up to the beneficiaries to take active control and provide leadership to the EIF process and signal the way forward.

As we move ahead, the Executive Secretariat working with all EIF partners and using all avenues possible will ensure that the required support is provided in the most effective and timely manner. Donors and agencies have a continuing vital role to play in demonstrating their ongoing commitment and support and through the provision of technical assistance and strong coordination of the trade and development agenda both in-country and globally. Our forthcoming EIF five-year strategic plan will help provide the context for all our efforts.

The future is in the hands of the LDCs, and failure is not an option. The most vulnerable communities and individuals are now looking to each one of us to make a difference. And we can make a difference. The short film that you have seen today gives you a sense of the potential that this programme has to contribute to meeting those expectations right now.

Allow me, Excellencies, to conclude by thanking Ambassador Himanen, in his role as Chair of the EIF Global Steering Committee; Ambassador Maruping, in his capacity as Chairman of the EIF Board; and all other EIF Board members, for their unwavering support and guidance. May I also express appreciation to the EIF Trust Fund Manager for excellent team work with the EIF Executive Secretariat.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to working with you all in the future to achieve the ambitious aims and objectives of the Enhanced Integrated Framework and, in so doing, raise the standards of living and aim high for all of those who are most in need.