



COMMUNIQUÉ

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Workshop Maseru, Lesotho, 15-17 February 2011

The EIF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Workshop hosted by the Kingdom of Lesotho in Maseru signals an important move for the region in the implementation of the EIF programme on trade and development. Representatives from 15 countries including Angola, Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia were invited to share their views and country experiences in EIF programme implementation as well as to provide exchanges on best practices and what works in the region.

The international community also supported the event, with participation from international agencies including ITC, STDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, UNOPS, the World Bank, WTO, bilateral donors, the African Development Bank plus private sector and regional economic organizations and programme representatives.

During the three-day event, delegations from EIF countries expressed strong commitment in the implementing and the delivery of the EIF programme against a results-focused backdrop and the need to strengthen efforts to mainstream trade while developing a coordinated strategy for the delivery of trade-related technical assistance. The Workshop also drew attention to the capacity constraints impeding project development, crucial in addressing supply-side constraints to trade and assisting countries' integration into the world trading system.

As part of the areas identified in tackling the challenges, there was agreement to support upcoming Tier 1 and consolidating ongoing Tier 1 projects in strengthening the National Implementation Arrangements, with a specific focus on the National Implementation Unit (NIU). Further support was needed for the NIU in its role in mainstreaming trade into poverty reduction strategies. The delivery of the EIF capacity building programme was also highlighted as essential in this regard.

One of the key focus areas in the discussions was supporting EIF countries in developing quality trade and development projects consistent with the targeted country priorities. Another subject was the development of an effective monitoring tool to measure the impact on the ground.

In line with the Workshop conclusions, the EIF Executive Secretariat (ES) will be accelerating a capacity-building programme to offer ongoing support to countries in a number of areas identified. The programme will initially pilot modules on project development, trade mainstreaming and gender mainstreaming modules. In addition to these modules, the EIF ES and UNOPS as the Trust Fund Manager will continue to support and bring new projects on board in close partnership with the EIF agencies and other partners. A Monitoring and Evaluation expert and a new Communications Unit will also support countries in managing better for results, as well as in how to communicate outcomes and better engage local stakeholders in delivery through outreach and advocacy.

To realize these aims, full partnership of the EIF process was stressed plus the need to fully utilize regional and global resources in developing Tier 2 projects. Taking into account the regional dimension of trade, participating delegations were also asked to identify practical avenues where the EIF could play a role in promoting regional trade among the countries.

Upcoming high-level events for the EIF in 2011 that will showcase results and map out the programme's future strategic direction include the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, 9-13 May in Istanbul, and the Third Global Aid for Trade Review, 18-19 July, in Geneva.