

**Statement delivered by the LDC Coordinator during the
Enhanced Integrated Framework Steering Committee Meeting**

30 April 2010

Agenda Item B: Election of the Chair of the EIFSC;

Mr. Chairman,

On Behalf of the LDC Group, I take this opportunity to congratulate you Ambassador Himanen upon your election as [Chairman] of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Steering Committee.

The LDC Group fully endorses the selection process followed based on the procedure approved by the Interim Board, which the Group is party to. The LDC Group believes that the approach taken to alternate the selection of chairpersons to the Steering Committee and the Board creates the necessary levels of comfort and partnership (between the beneficiary countries and the donors) required for the successful implementation of EIF.

May I also take this opportunity to commend Finland and all the EIF donors for the financial contributions to the EIF Trust Fund, without which this programme would not be implemented. As a result of your dedication to this programme, Contributions to the EIF Trust Fund have increased from US \$ 23.5 million in 2008 to US\$ 98.8 million in April 2010.

The LDC Group is confident that through your able leadership, the EIF Steering Committee will serve as an important arm in EIF structures in providing strategic advice and guidance towards the effective implementation of the EIF programme.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the Group will give you all the necessary support during your tenure of office.

Agenda Item C: Consideration and approval of the Terms of Reference of the EIFSC

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to thank you for your submission on the Terms of Reference for the EIF Steering Committee, to be considered and approved by this august assembly.

As highlighted in your submission, the document before us is a product of a consultative process involving both the LDC group and the EIF donors, which we fully support. The LDC Group being members of the Interim Board support the changes proposed during the meeting of the Interim Board held on 28 April 2010. The changes in our view clarifies the terms of reference.

For us, the Steering Committee serves as an important body, within the EIF structures, charged with the responsibility of providing strategic advice, guidance and EIF Board recommendations on the overall goal of EIF, including the review of recommendations on the continuation of the EIF programme and determine action as appropriate.

It is also an important platform for leveraging additional funding for EIF activities from current and potential donors

It is the Group's expectation that decisions shall be taken by consensus.

I thank You.

Agenda Item D: Report by the Chair of the EIF interim Board

Mr. Chairman,

The LDC Group wishes to thank you for giving an opportunity to the Chairman of the EIF Interim Board, Ambassador Maruping to share with us the activities undertaken by the Interim Board, following the mandate given by the Steering Committee during its meeting held on 1 May 2007.

The LDC Group wishes to commend you, Ambassador Maruping, for your succinct and comprehensive Report on the activities undertaken by the Interim Board since its inception in May 2007.

The LDC Group notes with appreciation the positive scores made by the Interim Board during the transitional period. Through your able leadership, EIF is now operational with a fully functional Executive Secretariat and a Trust Fund Manager.

The Group is pleased to note that the necessary institutional, legal, operational and managerial procedures are now in place to facilitate compliance of Trust Fund Manager activities with EIF principles of country ownership, demand driven and participatory approach.

The approval of 20 tier 1 projects since EIF became operational in July 2009, the mobilization of US \$ 98.8 Million as of 14 April 2010, and the development of guidelines for Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and Tier 1 and 2 projects, and the signing of partnership agreements between the Trust Fund Manager and Implementing Agencies, bears testimony to the priority and seriousness attached by the cooperating partners, the beneficiary countries, the Executive Secretariat, the implementing agencies and the Trust Fund Manager to this programme. With

the approval of tier 2 guidelines, it is the group's expectation that the Board will begin to consider applications for funding under tier 2.

As a result of the positive strides made, the recent past has witnessed the coming on Board of a new cooperating partner – Saudi Arabia, bringing the total of cooperating partners to 23. The LDC Group is confident that more countries will come on board to facilitate the smooth implementation of this programme.

There is no better way to assist LDC mainstream trade into their national development strategies, address supply capacity constraints and integrate into the multilateral trading system, than to ensure that adequate and targeted resources are provided under EIF in order to leverage from the broader Aid for Trade and other initiatives.

Once again, I wish to thank all the members of the Interim Board for their hard work, which has laid a good basis for the Board to facilitate the implementation of tangible projects that will deliver on the mandate of the EIF programme.

Agenda Item E: Transition to the EIF Board

As highlighted in my earlier statement, the transitional arrangements put in place have yielded positive results in terms of institutional frameworks, processes and substance.

The Group is pleased to note that the EIF compendium is near completion with outstanding work to be completed within the next four weeks.

The LDC further notes the Interim Board held its last meeting on 28 April in preparation for the EIF Board Meeting scheduled this afternoon.

The LDC welcomes this transition, as an important milestone in setting the basis for accelerated project implementation and resource mobilization.

The LDC Group wishes to thank the Interim Board Representatives from the Donor side Mr Mark Gawn from Canada, Mr Jan Ten Bloemendal from the European Union, Mr Darius Kurek from Switzerland, Mr Edward Brown from the United Kingdom and Ms Sofie Flensberg from Denmark.

From the LDC side, the Group thanks Mr Antoine Ruvebana and Mr Edward Bizumuremyi from Rwanda, Mr Mbaye from Senegal, Mr Abdoulaye Sanoko from Mali and Mr Nagib Hamin from Yemen.

On the side of the core Agencies, sincere thanks go to Mr Francesco Geoffroy from ITC, Mr Brad McDonold fro the IMF, Mr David Luke from UNDP, Mr Marcel Namfua and Ms Masoumeh Sahami from UNCTAD, Mr Newfarmer from the World Bank and Ms Annet Blank from the WTO Secretariat.

I also wish to extend our sincere thanks to the EIF Board observer, Mr Bernardo Calzadilla from UNIDO, and the ex-officio participants from the EIF Executive Secretariat and the Trust Fund Manager.

The LDC Group looks forward to a fully functioning Board.

I Thank you.