

Speaking notes for the Enhanced Integrated Framework Breakfast

Tuesday 1 December 2009

Ambassador Marie-Louise Overvad, Denmark

Director General, Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to say a few words today at this special and timely event.

The Danish Government has been - and continues to be - a strong believer in the philosophy of and the opportunities offered by the IF. If it were not already there, we would have to create it. With the adoption of the Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness in 2005, the virtues of the IF became even more evident. We believe that the EIF provides the foundation on which coherent trade related assistance to the world's poorest countries should be built; the foundation which would allow trade to function as a motor for private sector led growth, as well as sustained and sustainable development.

However, in order for the EIF to deliver, it is crucial that all partners stay fully engaged and committed and live up to their respective responsibilities.

For a partnership as complicated and sophisticated as the EIF, this is not as simple as it may sound. At the country-level, all relevant stakeholders need to be involved, including public authorities, business and other civil society associations. The EIF offers a unique opportunity for all these stakeholders to participate and contribute to analyzing the situation, identifying the problems and prioritizing the possible solutions in the right sequence.

Apart from the LDCs themselves, donors and agencies also have their important roles to play in providing the funding as well as the assistance to implement the priorities identified in the process of mainstreaming trade into the Poverty Reduction Strategies and other development strategies at the country-level.

The enhancement of the Framework has allowed us to get this in-country process right, thereby securing a full buy-in from all relevant stakeholders, as well as the necessary support at the highest political level, which is crucial to deliver long-term impact.

After years of focusing on the now well established Geneva based approach, time has come to concentrate on the process at the country level. Procedures and guidelines should be put in place in order for each partner at the country-level to be able to play its full part, *inter alia* in preparing tier 2 projects and other priorities, identified in the mainstreaming exercise.

As soon as the financial situation of the trust fund requires it, Denmark is able to transfer 12 million US dollars to the fund. It could be done within a week. I think this is reassuring to know for countries that are not quite ready yet to submit concrete project proposals.

The EIF Secretariat and the trust fund manager as well as the Board are there to make sure that the EIF actually does what it is intended to do. For this purpose, we have also developed the monitoring and evaluation framework which should enable us to gather experience that will allow us to perform better and to demonstrate to ourselves and others that we are making a difference.

Let me end by expressing my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the process of getting to where we are today. I would also like to pay a special tribute to Dorothy Tembo, who has shown leadership, stamina and commitment ever since she took up her post a little over a year ago.

We look forward to continue the good collaboration in the years to come.

I thank you for your attention.