

## **AIDE MEMOIRE:**

### **BURUNDI INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK NATIONAL WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 18 – 19 2003**

On December 18 and 19, 2003, the Integrated framework National Workshop took place in Bujumbura, Burundi. On behalf of the World Bank the workshop was attended by Mr. Salomon Samen (Regional Trade Coordinator, AFTP3), Mr. Leen Solleveld (adviser PREM), Mr. Jean Ndenzako (Acting Representative of the World Bank Burundi Office) and Mr Grant B. Taplin (consultant, team leader Diagnostic Trade Integration Study). The workshop was also attended by ITC, UNDP and WTO. The workshop was chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Thomas Minani and partly by the Director General of Commerce, Mr. Gervais Nkanagu. Participants included members of the Diplomatic Corps, senior representatives of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Industry, Finance, Agriculture, Planning and Reconstruction, Public Works, Transportation, the private sector, professional organisations, academia and the civil society. A total of about 80 people attended the workshop.

The workshop was preceded by a preparatory workshop on December 11 and 12. The purpose of this workshop was to have a preliminary discussion among the main stakeholders of the diagnostic study and the proposed action matrix. Seven break out sessions took place, covering the main themes and action items of the DTIS . During these sessions, in depth discussions took place on the action matrix . The outcome of these deliberations was presented during a plenary session of the pre workshop.

Based on the outcome of the pre-workshop the action matrix was amended on December 15 by members of the National Steering Committee. The World Bank team also attended this meeting.

The main workshop was addressed by the minister of Commerce and Industry, the acting Permanent Secretary of the PRSP Steering Committee, Mr Salomon Samen, Mr Hans Peter Werner (WTO), Mr Leen Solleveld, Mr Frank. Ekutu Bonzemba (ITC), Mr. Assane Diop (UNDP) and Mr. Cyrus Nersy (IF facilitator, France) and Mr. Grant B. Taplin.

During these introductions emphasis was placed on the main challenges of the Burundi economy, the importance of trade for pro poor growth, the link with the PRSP process, the main characteristics of the Integrated Framework, including window II, the IF implementation process, and the role of the IF facilitator in this process. Mr. Taplin summarized the main findings of the DTIS and the action matrix. The results of the pre-workshop were presented by the chairmen of the break-out sessions followed by very substantive discussions of these results.

During the second day of the workshop discussions took place on the action matrix as amended by the outcome of the pre-workshop. Numerous suggestions were made to modify the proposed actions and a number of additional action items were suggested. The discussion mainly focused on the following themes :

- role of the public and the private sector in stimulating the production
- dialogue between the public and the private sector to support reforms
- export and investment promotion structure
- trade facilitation including customs reforms and infrastructures
- importance of having concrete projects realized

On December 19 a separate meeting took place with the minister of Commerce and Industry during which the follow-up of the workshop was discussed. The minister emphasized his strong support for the IF. Then, he indicated that the diagnostic study and action matrix, after taking into consideration the outcome of the workshop, would be validated by the cabinet. This would be an expression of the broad government support of the IF process and a commitment by the government to implement the action plan with the support of donors.

After the workshop the World Bank team discussed the implementation plan in more detail with the Director General of Commerce and the national coordinator of the IF, Mrs Valerie Siniremera.

Agreement was reached on the following steps:

- Preparation report National workshop: January 10, 2004 (Valerie Siniremera)  
Revision action matrix. January 10 Valerie Siniremera
- Revision DTIS (French version) January 20 (Grant B. Taplin, Salomon Samen)
- Debriefing donors Week of January 20.( Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Facilitator)
- Establishing a core implementation committee consisting of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Director General of Commerce and the National coordinator of IF : mid-January
- Formulation window II proposals: End of January (Implementation committee / Local Project Approval Committee (LPAC) : ministries of Commerce and Industry, Finances, Planning and reconstruction, UNDP, World Bank and the Facilitator)
- Approval window II proposals: February 15, LPAC
- Meeting of “Partenaires du développement in Brussels” ( Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Taplin will attend this meeting and prepare a background note for the government)
- Approval DTIS plus action matrix by the National Steering Committee : February 15
- Cabinet validation of the DTIS and action matrix :third week of February
- Sensibilization of donors: Continuing after January 20
- Implementation meeting with donors : March 10 (Government, Facilitator)
- Integration of trade issues and action plan in the full PRSP throughout 2004 until completion of full PRSP. Government.
- Set up monitoring system and monitoring. Ministry of Commerce and Industry.