



Integrated Framework Newsletter

www.integratedframework.org

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EDITORIAL

Thank you! We received a large number of e-mails regarding the first newsletter. There seems to be consensus that the initiative is a welcome one, and we will strive to respond to all suggestions.

Most suggestions concerned the layout of the newsletter, which in response we tried to make more attractive and reader-friendly.

This month's newsletter focuses on the work of the IF Interim Board, which is meeting weekly in Geneva to ensure timely implementation of the EIF.

The IF Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), which produces this newsletter, is now complete! On July 2, Constanze Schulz joined Christiane Kraus and Sari Laaksonen.

Please send contributions for the next newsletter to christiane.kraus@wto.org, sari.laaksonen@wto.org, and constanze.schulz@wto.org by August 31, 2007.

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News from Geneva: EIF iBoard convenes weekly to ensure timely implementation of the EIF

On 1 May 2007, the Integrated Framework Working Group (IFWG) and the Integrated Framework Steering Committee (IFSC) adopted a package of recommendations to start the implementation phase of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). Intense work is ongoing in order to ensure a smooth transition from the current IF

to its enhanced phase. The EIF Board, on an interim basis (EIF iBoard), has been meeting regularly from 23 May onwards. At its first meeting, it selected **Ambassador Mthae Anthony Maruping** from the Kingdom of Lesotho as Chair of the EIF iBoard.

The package of documents, which was adopted on 1 May, can be found, both in English and in French, on the website www.integratedframework.org. Documents contained in the package are work in progress as some issues still need to be finalized.

Therefore, the IFWG also agreed that pending the first meeting of the EIF Board, the EIF iBoard would address the most important outstanding issues:

- accountability framework of the Trust Fund Manager to be selected;
- monitoring and evaluation framework for the EIF;
- further clarity with regard to funding and replenishment issues; and
- further elaboration of ideas on outreach activities.

The EIF iBoard is meeting every week and has so far met nine times. The EIF iBoard consists of representatives from the six IF Agencies, and three representatives each from the LDCs and Donors (Rwanda, Senegal, Yemen, Canada, Switzerland, and the UK). The WTO Secretariat has offered to service the meetings of the EIF iBoard until the Executive Director of the EIF Executive Secretariat will be on board. For the moment, the Programme Implementation Unit for the IF services the meetings, in addition to the work it carries out in fulfilling its direct mandate.

One of the most pressing issues the EIF iBoard is discussing is the **accountability framework for the future Trust Fund Manager**. This means, setting out the modalities on how the future Trust Fund Manager would report to the EIF governing bodies on its actions and how it can be held legally responsible by them. Finding an acceptable accountability framework is crucial for two reasons. First, to allow the Board to select the future Trust Fund Manager since the aspiring candidates will have to conform to the model agreed upon. Secondly, the accountability framework will need to conform to donors' fiduciary requirements. Fully aware of the urgency of the issue, the Board has intensified its discussions on this matter. An open-ended meeting on the Accountability Framework for the Trust Fund Manager took place on 20 July.

On **monitoring and evaluation**, the EIF iBoard agreed that members prepare background documentation for an open-ended meeting on this issue that also took place on July 20 (afternoon).

In terms of **funding and replenishment**, the EIF iBoard has been regularly updated by donors of the planned High-Level Meeting bringing together a number of donors, which will take place on 25 September in Stockholm, Sweden. It has been stressed that all remaining outstanding issues must have been settled by that time. This date therefore serves as an important deadline for the work carried out by the EIF iBoard.

With respect to **outreach activities**, a number of propositions are being discussed to raise awareness of the existence, objectives and procedures of the EIF. In this context should also be seen the planned missions of the PIU, which it will carry out in the fulfilment of its regular mandate. An outreach mission to IF

beneficiaries Malawi, Lesotho, Uganda and Rwanda has taken place earlier this year (see last newsletter); additional outreach missions are planned over the course of the year. In addition, National Validation Workshops are used for outreach and awareness-raising of the EIF. Finally, regional EIF workshops are being organized or planned for sub-regions in Africa and for non-African LDCs, as well as an event at the end of the year bringing together all Focal Points and Donor Facilitators in Geneva. In the meantime, ITC intends to continue organizing EIF familiarization missions for IF teams from beneficiary countries to Geneva.

WTO and UNDP are finalizing paperwork to release the funds to start setting up the **Executive Secretariat for the EIF**. In the weeks to come, the Vacancy Notice for the Executive Director shall be issued by WTO, and the recruitment process shall begin.

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News from IF Countries: DTIS validation workshops and other IF news

The DTIS for **Burkina Faso** was validated in Ouagadougou on June 21/22 by a group of government officials, private sector and civil society representatives.

Donors and representatives of all IF agencies attended the meeting as well. The focal point and the IF steering committee supported by IF agencies and the Donor Facilitator from France are now preparing the establishment of national implementation arrangements following the guidelines for the EIF, which were presented by the PIU during an EIF session, which was held separately with members of the Government, bilateral donors and IF agencies.

On June 21/22, a DTIS follow-up conference took place in Antananarivo/**Madagascar**, where sector studies complementing the Malagasy DTIS were reviewed and validated, and further steps towards a national trade strategy (to be prepared in 2008) were discussed. The Minister of Economy, Planning, Private Sector and Trade formally opened and closed the event. The main target audience were 60 senior officials and analysts from key ministries, representatives of the private sector, the donor community, regional organizations and researchers. The need to improve standards, quality, infrastructure (especially energy) and negotiating capacity were frequently raised by the participants. There was a long debate on

IF New-comers

In June, **Liberia** received a positive Technical Review, allowing it to move into the next phase of the IF, which is the preparation of the DTIS. Liberia has requested the World Bank to assist it in undertaking the DTIS, together with the other Agencies such as ITC and UNDP. A World Bank mission was in Monrovia for first discussions. A pre-mission is planned for later this fall.

Most recently, **Guinée Bissau** and **Afghanistan** received positive Technical Reviews, paving the way for the next phase in the IF process.

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Upcoming events

In **Niger**, a pre-validation workshop took place on June 25/26 in Niamey to review the overview document and background studies. The DTIS validation workshop is planned for the fall.

On September 25, a **High Level Donor Pledging Conference** will take place in Stockholm/Sweden, where donors will have the opportunity to pledge contributions for the EIF Trust Fund. WTO's Director General Pascal Lamy will address the meeting, as will ministers from the donor countries. A number of ministers from IF beneficiary countries will also be invited.

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This newsletter has been authored by the IF PIU with input from other IF agencies.