



From the margins to the centre:

Women's Economic Empowerment through Trade



PROGRAMME

Wednesday 28 September 2016
9:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Room D, WTO

The EIF: Working in support of SDGs

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



PROGRAMME



Moderator

- **H.E. Ms Yvette Stevens**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone in Geneva and EIF Board Chair

Introductory remarks

- **Mr Ratnakar Adhikari**, Executive Director, Executive Secretariat for the EIF
- Video messages from EIF women beneficiaries**

Panellists

- **Ms Coulibaly Aïssata Touré**, Mango Exporter, Manager of the *Société de Valorisation des Fruits (SOVAFY)* and President of the Network of Women Economic Operators (RFOE) of Mali
- **Mrs SENG Takakneary**, SentosaSilk Founder and President, Cambodian Women Entrepreneurs Association, Cambodia
- **Ms Kuvien Para**, Co-owner and Manager, Dolphin View Beach business, Solomon Islands
- **Ms Louise Kayonga**, Cooperative Secretary, Cooperative Twagure Amarembo, Rwanda

Donor perspective

- **H.E. Ms Terhi Hakala**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations Office and International Organizations at Geneva
- **H.E. Mrs Elsbeth Akkerman**, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
- **Ms Susan Barton**, Senior Trade Policy Adviser, Trade Policy Unit, Department for International Trade, DFID, United Kingdom

Partner Agency perspective

- **Ms Arancha González**, Executive Director, International Trade Centre
- **Mr Paul Brenton**, Lead Economist, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, World Bank

Questions and Answers

DESCRIPTION

“Half of the world is made up of women and the other half born by women”

Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya



Women’s economic empowerment is about generating rapid poverty reduction, strong inclusive and equitable economic growth and sound sustainable socio-economic development. Yet there are considerable challenges that inhibit women’s fuller participation in production and trade, in taking part in technological developments, in services, in regional and global value chains and in gaining access to markets. These challenges are exacerbated in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) due to the

inherent bottlenecks they face. Given its role as a global coordination framework for trade-related support to the LDCs, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EIF is specifically mentioned under SDG 8 and also directly supports SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and women empowerment in the LDCs.

Promoting women’s economic empowerment is a strategic priority of the EIF given the powerful role of trade to harness the productive potential of women. This is done through three main channels of support to LDCs:

- The EIF’s analytical work (Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies), which identifies the main constraints to trade and prioritizes actions, policies and reforms taking into consideration gender issues and the role of women in enhancing the effectiveness of trade and poverty reduction in the LDCs;
- The EIF’s institutional capacity-building support, which is helping efforts to mainstream gender equality into trade policy-making in the LDCs; and
- The EIF’s catalytic support to priority projects identified through the analytical work is often provided directly to help rural women beneficiaries acting as agents for economic transformation.

This session will provide a spotlight on four country case stories and show how through putting in place the right trade foundations, the EIF supports the LDCs in driving projects that focus on results and impact and benefit poor women on the ground. An increased focus has been placed on supporting women-owned MSMEs and harnessing the huge untapped potential of women to contribute to economic growth

in the LDCs. These gender-inclusive projects lead to more business, higher incomes, stronger livelihoods and a higher standard of living, while taking into account issues on sustainable land management and a community approach respectful of the environment, involving local farmers, traders and entrepreneurs.



In **Cambodia**, this will focus on how the EIF is supporting 14 women-owned businesses working with weavers in rural areas, of which 86% are women, to improve their technical and marketing skills; and in **Mali**, on how earlier EIF support through a set of complementary and self-reinforcing projects to develop the country's trade development strategy has supported women cooperatives in the mango sector, enhanced credit provision to mango exporters and improved the quality of Malian mangoes. These projects have helped key women-led sub-chains, from mango production to processing, marketing and exports.



In **Rwanda**, the focus will be on supporting the implementation of the National Cross Border Trade Strategy 2012-2017 in a cohesive manner with other partners on the ground to improve the livelihoods and earning potential of those engaged in cross-border trade, particularly for women who represent more than two thirds of all cross-border traders; and in **Solomon Islands**, on innovative eco-tourism grants awarded to three local female tourism operators as part of an initiative to encourage women to venture into tourism as a sustainable sector of economic development. This is part of the holistic EIF-funded tourism project supporting areas of policy and legislations related to the tourism sector and promoting Solomon Islands as a distinct visitors' destination in the Pacific

region. The project also strengthens the linkages between tourism and auxiliary sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and handicrafts, in a way that can help create additional livelihood opportunities for the local people, in particular for women.

The session to be held during the WTO Public Forum will include interactive discussions with personal testimonies from a range of stakeholders on the ground and will be complemented with input from development partners. Interactive discussions from the floor from the LDCs and development and agency partners will help to pull out lessons learned in terms of removing gendered barriers to trade, enhancing women's capacity to trade and creating equal opportunities as well as providing a level playing field for both men and women.

Avenues for a much-needed mind-set shift to recognize women as major economic actors will be explored to ensure that women who are empowered can fully benefit from the opportunities arising from expanded trade. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences as well as successful sectoral examples and good practices in implementing gender-sensitive inclusive development strategies. The session will also provide a forum to discuss gender equality and women's economic empowerment in the LDCs within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the EIF's role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Find out more at www.enhancedif.org
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