

<b>Speaking event:</b>	<b>Cécile Molinier, Director, UNDP Geneva Office</b> <b>Launch of the UNDP Publication</b> <b><i>Commodity Development Strategies in the Integrated Framework</i></b>
<b>Date and time:</b>	08 July 2009; 19H30
<b>Venue:</b>	Residence of Edward Brown – Reception hosted by the UK for participants attending the Enhanced Integrated Framework Global Workshop
<b>Participants/audience:</b>	About 120 people including IF focal points and other stakeholders from over 45 countries
<b>Length of speech:</b>	5-6 minutes; 616 words
<b>Context of speech:</b>	<p>The Integrated Framework is a trade capacity development programme for the least developed countries (LDCs). Virtually all LDCs are also commodity-dependent economies, and rely on the export of a few commodities for foreign earnings as well as employment of large sections of their populations. It therefore follows that prioritization of commodity development strategies should feature strongly in the IF programme, given its focus on sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.</p> <p>As part of the work programme of the Geneva Trade and Development Unit, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken of the 29 Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies (DTIS) available as of October 2008 to assess whether and to what extent the DTISs provide concrete recommendations and actions which can support comprehensive strategies for promoting, upgrading, diversification and value addition in manufacturing and related industrial development activities associated with commodity production. The DTIS – a detailed country study of trade needs and priorities - is the essential first step for participation in the Integrated Framework. Following completion of a DTIS, the IF programme provides seed money through grants from its Trust Fund to support implementation of priority recommendations.</p>

Excellencies, colleagues and friends

I am very pleased to be here this evening to officially launch the UNDP publication, *Commodity Development Strategies in the Integrated Framework*. Our reason for undertaking this study stems from the recognition of the fact that primary commodities including agricultural and mineral commodities are the main source of income, employment and trade for most LDCs. For many of these countries, their journey out of poverty is linked to the development of the commodity sector. It follows from this that the Integrated Framework, and even more so the *Enhanced* Integrated Framework, should prioritize commodity development strategies that promote, upgrade, diversify and add value to help the countries move up the value chain into manufacturing and industrial development activities associated with commodity production.

It was against this background that we undertook the study that is the focus of the book that I am launching tonight. The study provides a comprehensive analysis of 29 DTISs that were available as of October 2008. Admittedly the DTISs were not designed as a commodity development tool. So it is not surprising that the DTISs to a great extent do not respond well to the criteria selected for the analysis in our commodity sector development-oriented study. Having said this, the main message of our study, however, is that there are significant gaps in the attention given to commodities in the existing DTISs. Nonetheless, we found that some of the DTISs contain useful pointers for commodity development and identify quite well the policy, institutional and infrastructural constraints.

Another message from our book is that interventions to support commodity development under the IF have been fragmented with little assessment of impacts as a basis for taking corrective action. A major recommendation is the need for a robust management information system at the country level to keep track of results and impacts from IF interventions. You will find in this book a strong case why it is critical for a monitoring and evaluation framework that is practical and works to be an integral part of the Enhanced IF. If there were any doubts on this question, this book effectively dispels them.

I believe the book is the first major attempt that specifically focuses on how the DTISs have addressed critical issues concerned with productive and trade capacity in the LDCs. The book is also written in an easy to read style, free of the jargon that is sometimes found in UN reports. Here I must commend Professor Raymond Saner and Dr. Lichia Saner-Yiu of the Geneva Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND) who worked with us as consultants in the preparation of the study and are also here tonight. David Luke, whom you all know well, conceived and supervised the project, ably assisted by his colleagues, Luca Monge-Roffarello, Luisa Bernal, Emefa Attigah, Luciana Mermet and Daniela Dosseva.

It is particularly fitting that UNDP has made the book available at this first global gathering of the Enhanced IF. We all hope that things will be done differently under the Enhanced IF. And we all know how difficult the current global economic crisis is for developing countries, especially LDCs. We also know that LDCs need to prepare and position themselves for a new world economy that has seen some developing countries emerge as major economic powers. On the substantive question of building productive and trade capacity, including capturing a greater share of value from commodities, generating income and employment, you will find practical ideas in this book on how to make the Enhanced IF work for LDCs and poverty reduction.

Please help yourselves to copies of the book. Do also send us feedback on how useful you have found it in your own work.

Thank you.