

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/IFSC/M/5
15 January 2003

(03-0196)

Integrated Framework Steering Committee Fifth Session

NOTE ON THE MEETING OF 12 JULY 2002

Chair: Ambassador Henrik Reé Iversen (Denmark)

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the fifth meeting of the Integrated Framework Steering Committee, and proposed that the agenda be adopted with two additional sub-items (2.c(iii) Use of the IF Trust Fund to support National coordination process in IF Countries – Statement by the ITC on behalf of the IAWG and 2.c(iv) Role of the IF Facilitator.

2. It was so agreed.

B. REPORTS BY THE IAWG CHAIRMAN ON THE 31ST MEETING, 30-31 MAY 2002 AND THE 32ND MEETING, 11 JULY 2002

3. The Chairman handed the floor to Mr. Osakwe, Director, Technical Cooperation Division, WTO, and Chairman of the IAWG, to report on these meetings.

4. Mr. Osakwe noted that the report of the 31st meeting of the IAWG had already been circulated among members and that the report of the 32nd meeting was to be circulated shortly after the fifth session of the IFSC. He drew attention to some basic points that were made in the reports, whilst noting that the points covered in his presentation were also dedicated agenda items of the Fifth Session of the IFSC. Regarding the extension of the IF Pilot Scheme, he said that IF Heads of Agencies had, as recorded in paragraph seven of the communiqué issued following their meeting, received requests for IF extension from 4 LDCs. These 4 LDCs were Benin, Chad, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Togo. In accordance with the establishment procedure, these requests were sent to the World Bank for preparation of an assessment paper based on the four agreed criteria¹. On the basis of this paper, the IAWG was to make recommendations, and submit these recommendations to the IF Steering Committee.

5. Regarding the decision of whether or not to extend the IF model to non-LDC low-income countries, as recorded in paragraph eight of the communiqué and its guidelines, Mr. Osakwe reported that generally there had been a favorable reaction within the IAWG to undertake Diagnostic Trade Integrated Studies. It was emphasised however that no resources would be taken away from the IF

¹ The criteria for assessing the IF Candidates, agreed by the IAWG at its 25th meeting, 27 March 2001 and endorsed by the IF Steering Committee at its Second Session, 3 May 2001, are as follows: (i) demonstration of strong commitment by the government to integrate trade into its national development strategy and its PRSP; (ii) the preparatory stage of the PRSP; (iii) the preparatory stage of upcoming meetings of the World Bank Consultative Group or UNDP Round Table; and (iv) conducive operational country environment (e.g. level of infrastructure, resource base of the World Bank/IMF and UNDP country offices, donor response, and the pace of domestic reform).

Trust Fund for this purpose, and that agency contribution to such DTISs should be covered by each agency's budgetary resources.

6. Mr. Osakwe said that the IAWG had taken note of the request from South Africa, on behalf of the NEPAD², which sought to establish a close working relationship between the NEPAD and the IF agencies in order to develop a capacity building programme for the African continent.

7. Mr. Osakwe drew attention to the critical importance of follow-up activities and their effective implementation, and the necessity of improving work between agencies, donors and beneficiaries in this domain, as recorded in paragraph ten of the communiqué.

8. Mr. Osakwe reported that IAWG members had agreed that beneficiary LDCs should assume the responsibility of organizing national integration workshops, in coordination with the World Bank and the UNDP, in order to improve ownership of the IF process; the IAWG had recommended that the LDCs include the conclusions from the DTISs in their PRSPs; and that, based on the experience and success of Cambodia, it had recommended that trade be included as a subject in the World Bank Consultative Group meetings (CGs) or UNDP Round Tables. The IAWG had re-emphasized the importance of each LDC in this process, in securing ownership, and in enabling and encouraging all Ministries to be able to effectively integrate trade into their PRSPs. It was acknowledged that each LDC needed resources to assist or create their national implementation structure. It was agreed that those resources were to come from the IF Trust Fund, and would be applied on a case by case basis. The ITC had, on the request of agencies, prepared a paper on this subject that was still under discussion.

9. On the request to expand the membership of the IAWG (currently 6 core agencies, 2 representatives of the donors, 2 representatives of LDCs, DAC-OECD), Mr. Osakwe expressed the view that there was merit in preserving, at present, the actual membership structure. Nevertheless, he recognised that the Regional Development Banks, FAO, UNIDO needed to be involved in the stage of implementation and follow up of the DTISs.

10. The IFSC took note of Mr. Osakwe's presentation.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IF PILOT SCHEME IN CAMBODIA, MADAGASCAR AND MAURITANIA:
FOLLOW-UP TO THE DIAGNOSTIC TRADE INTEGRATION STUDIES

11. The Chairman recalled that the revamped IF was proceeding in the right direction and had the potential to help LDCs' integration into the multilateral trading system. He said that trade-related capacity building and the mainstreaming of trade into national poverty reduction and development strategies were key aspects of the IF, and that donors played a key role in the coordination of the follow up process.

12. The Chairman handed the floor to the representatives of the three Pilot Project countries – Cambodia, Madagascar, and Mauritania, which had benefited from the DTIS process.

13. The representative of Cambodia said that his presentation would be the same as during the CG Meeting, on the occasion of which donors had pledged a total 635 million dollars in assistance. He said that the DTIS was a 5-stage process. The first one, the elaboration of an integration and competitiveness study, had been completed in 2001. The second stage consisted of the approval by the government of the DTIS and its endorsement by donors. The third, the adoption of the matrix of technical assistance and policy, had received, in early January, the endorsement by the IAWG and the DAC. Stage four consisted of finding financial support to fund activities outlined in the technical

² The New Economic Partnership for African Development

assistance matrix. A Japanese funded project was the first one to become operational, and Cambodia was working with both bilateral and multilateral donors at the same time. The last stage was fund raising through the CG Meeting, which had been a useful exercise in informing and presenting the matrix to a large number of donors. He reported that, during the visit of European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy to Cambodia, the EU had given a 3 million Euro grant, and a team is now installed to develop and implement the project covered by the grant. He reported that the World Bank fund had been used in very effective ways, such as the translation of the text of the Uruguay Round Agreement into Khmer and publishing and translating the DTIS, activities necessary to keep the momentum going. He outlined a large list of projects underway or completed in his country along with the support provided by the agencies and countries. He drew attention to the fact that his country had achieved its goal of mainstreaming trade, integrating it into the national development policy process, and finally, completing the integration of trade policy into the PRSP. He reported that Cambodia maintained the trend of recording total exports worth more than 1 billion US dollars, and that the trade deficit was decreasing. Regarding Cambodia's accession to the WTO, he reported that the second working party had concluded and that a third meeting was scheduled for September. He was hopeful to have a completed draft accession report by that stage. He said that the officials from the Ministry of Trade of Uganda had gone to Cambodia to learn about their IF experience.

14. The representative of Madagascar said he was not able to report any positive elements of development since the last meeting. He commented that progress in Madagascar remained deadlocked due to internal political strife, although the situation appeared to be moving toward stability.

15. The representative of Mauritania said that his presentation was based on three aspects: i) the preparatory process for the round table on trade; ii) experience of the Pilot Project; and iii) outlook for the future. With respect to the preparatory process for the Round Table (assessment of needs, survey on topics related to foreign trade and a promotion strategy for the export sector), he said that the necessary adjustments were made in accordance with the revamped IF, one of the reasons why Mauritania was chosen as a pilot country. Regarding the experience of the pilot project, he said that the process had begun in May 2001, the Competitiveness and Trade Integration survey was realized during July-August 2001, and endorsed by a national workshop in November 2001. In December 2001, the results of the DTIS process were presented to the Consultative Group meeting for Mauritania held in Paris. The government was committed to integrate the findings of the DTIS into a poverty reduction strategy and adopt a priority action plan in April 2002. This was already well under way. The matrix of Technical Assistance needs clearly identified priority areas of action. The three main project areas were submitted during the meeting of March 2002 and were: a trade information centre, a centre to promote fisheries projects, and a program for training of trainers in international trade matters. After five years of process and studies, the government was looking forward to seeing the first concrete responses materialize in the field. Turning to the outlook for the future, he reported several factors that limited the effectiveness of the IF. Those were: a lack of transparency in the rules and procedures of the IAWG; a lack of harmony between the agencies; the discretionary use of the resources of the Trust Fund; the lack of accommodation for the structure of the IF to the request of LDCs; insufficient resources to cover the needs of beneficiary countries; and no cooperation between the IF and other cooperation mechanisms. He noted that the functioning of the IF needed to be improved to clarify the eligibility criteria for Windows I and II of the Trust Fund, and rationalize the existing working methods to shorten the deadlines. He said that the credibility and future of the IF depended on this. He suggested that the IAWG and IFSC hold a special meeting before the end of July 2002, in order to study the problems that have appeared in the implementation processes within the Pilot Countries, and to review the modalities of financing priority projects from windows I and II. He thanked the European Union, the IF Facilitator for Mauritania, for the work done in Mauritania. He said that the date for a Round Table to discuss the integration of DTIS findings into Mauritania's PRSP would be decided shortly. Finally, he reiterated that the IFSC needed to establish clear guidelines for resource allocation in order to help LDCs in improving their capacity building.

16. Mr. Osakwe, on behalf of the agencies, requested the representative of Mauritania to provide more details and information regarding his comments on lack of transparency in the IAWG process and lack of harmony between the agencies.

17. The representative of Japan, appreciated the efforts and commitments undertaken by the Cambodian government regarding the IF process, in particular, attracting various donors and resources. He noted that, as a major donor, his country was very satisfied with the progress made and he expressed his country's full commitment to Cambodia. He said that if most of the technical assistance were to be devoted to building human and institutional capacity, Japan was prepared to hear the specifics needs in those areas of trade-related capacity building, which were essential for sustainable development. He proposed that the funds for the follow up of the DTIS not come from the Trust Fund.

18. The representative of European Communities said that the IF faced a challenge related to two issues. The first lay in preserving the integrity of the IF, notably in view of problems with mainstreaming trade into the national policy of LDCs; and secondly, the pressure and need of quick implementation. As facilitator for Mauritania, the European Communities wanted to outline some procedural matters. The PRSP was finished in 2001, the next CG was to be held in 2005, but the implementation of the DTIS findings in the PRSP needed to go through before that date. The EC, as facilitator, proposed a practical solution. This was to hold a Round table discussion with donors in September 2002 in order to discuss and approve, not only the priority projects, but the entire Technical Assistance Matrix. The Mauritanian government had given a strong commitment to continue integrating the finding of the DTIS in the PRSP.

19. Responding to Mr Osakwe, the representative of Mauritania made the following points. Regarding the lack of transparency, he noted that: the rules of procedures did not seem fixed; different rules were applied with different interpretations; the decision-making process did not seem to be clearly set; and there was no response from the agencies, including a clear explanation to some official requests. Regarding the lack of harmony, he noted that there existed a divergence in interpretation between agencies regarding some specific rules, i.e the use of the special Trust Fund. He thanked the EC for accepting the role of facilitator for his country, and took note of the date proposed for the Round Table discussion.

20. The representative of India referred to remarks made during the presentation of the representative of Cambodia, concerning the relationship between good governance, labour standards and trade. His government was of the view that the WTO was not the appropriate forum to discuss such issues.

21. The representative of Zambia said that the Cambodia process was a model for the rest of LDCs. He expressed his preoccupation with the situation in Mauritania, where there appeared to be problem in the implementation of the DTIS.

22. The representative of Cambodia said that the IF was not the solution to all problems faced by LDCs, but was a very useful tool. From his point of view, once a country had adopted the DTIS an effort has to be made by each country in the approach for the follow-up activities and contact with the potential donors is an effort that has to be made by each country.

23. The representative of European Communities agreed that the secret of the success of the IF, was based on the country's own efforts for the follow up as demonstrated in the Cambodia case.

24. Mr. Osakwe, on behalf of the IAWG, said that the information provided by Mauritania did not present enough evidence to support the claims of lack of harmony, but noted that the issues raised were important for the work of the IFSC. Regarding the issue of lack of transparency, he recalled that

the IAWG had expanded its structure to include two representatives of the LDCs and two from the donors. The minutes of the meeting were public and were no longer restricted. With respect to the claim of different interpretations, he stated that there was not one instance where any decision taken had been subjected to any different interpretation that undermined the decision taken in the IAWG. He confirmed that there were no rules of implementation on the follow up of the DTIS. This was an important matter, and the IAWG needed to define a process rather than rules. On the eligibility of what could be funded by the Trust Fund, he said that this had never been questioned, and two windows existed: Windows I to be used mainly for trade mainstreaming (DTIS) activities and Windows II for projects to be funded in support of Windows I. The position of the IAWG was that the donors should not make any contributions to projects that did not result from the DTIS process, because this would undermine the process and the agreement establishing the revamped IF. He said that the IF Trust Fund would not be used to fund projects that agencies delivered that were normally in the jurisdiction of their agency work.

25. The representative of Canada said that work was done in an open way in the IAWG, and that decisions were taken in a consistent manner. She recalled that the IF was a pilot project, and could be improved, and this was an important ongoing process.

26. The representative of Mauritania took note of Mr. Osakwe's replies and explanations.

27. The Chairman said that the statements made were encouraging, and showed that the IF process could make a difference. He reiterated the importance for Mauritania of the Round Table discussion scheduled for September. He outlined the critical importance of follow-up to priority technical assistance recommendations contained in DTIS.

28. The representative of Switzerland said that the definition of the criteria for the use of the Windows II fund was something essential, and that the IFSC should analyse this issue during its fifth session.

29. The representative of Mauritania supported the views expressed by the representative of Switzerland. He asked if the Trust Fund would not finance the three projects (trade information center, centre to promote fisheries projects, programme for training for trainers), which mechanism would do it. He clarified that the date of September for the Round Table was a proposal made by the EC.

30. The Chairman responded to Mauritania. He stated that the Round Table would be the appropriate place to seek answers to his questions and doubts.

31. The representative of European Communities restated that the main principle of the Trust Fund was to finance the elaboration of DTIS. He recalled that proposals developed by the ITC on behalf of the IAWG, to extend the use of a so called "Management structure" meant to be put in place from the start of the IF operation in the country, constituted the only extension approved by the IFSC. He noted that the IFSC had the responsibility of managing the IF Trust Fund. He proposed not to open the debate about using the Trust Fund for implementation projects. He reminded Mauritania that a Fishery Agreement was signed between them, containing some funds for promotion and development of the fishery industry, that could be used for his Fishery project.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IF IN BURUNDI, DJIBOUTI, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, GUINEA, LESOTHO, MALI, MALAWI, NEPAL, SENEGAL AND YEMEN

32. The representative of the World Bank said that the work had already started in four countries, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal and Yemen. During April and May missions had visited those countries, and the DTISs were in the process of being finalized. She expected that by the end of September, the

National consultation workshop would take place. She expected that for the next round of countries (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nepal, Guinea) the preliminary mission would take place in August, in September for Burundi, and in October for Mali. (Annex III – Report of the 31st Meeting of the IAWG, 30 and 31 May 2002).

33. The representative of the UNDP said that it would lead the DTIS in Djibouti as requested by the World Bank. He expected that the preliminary mission would start in August-September.

34. The representative of Guinea said that she regretted that the World Bank preliminary mission was now scheduled for August instead of July. She noted that, a mission from Cambodia, funded by the ITC, would visit her country to share the Cambodian successful experience with the IF.

35. The representative of Ethiopia expressed her country's complete commitment to the IF. She recalled that studies were already made and that they could be used for the DTIS. She noted the importance of the follow up process and the facilitator role, asking for a facilitator from the very beginning of the process.

36. The representative of Yemen said that the National Seminar would take place in the month of October.

37. The representative of the World Bank took note of the statements made by the countries. She recognised the point made by Ethiopia on the necessity to avoid duplication by using existing studies, and recommended that each government made a list of existing material and research to facilitate the process. She reported that the role of facilitator for Yemen would be the Netherlands, and for Senegal, the European Communities.

E. USE OF THE IF TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT NATIONAL COORDINATION PROCESS

38. On behalf of the IAWG, the representative of the International Trade Center submitted a proposal to use the IF Trust Fund to support national coordinating processes in IF countries. The specific objectives were to: (i) strengthen inter-institutional capacity of the LDCs, but also complement and reinforce their own efforts to participate effectively in the entire IF, establishing a solid partnership; (ii) ensure stronger LDC ownership of the IF; (iii) maximize benefits from their participation. He said that the different ways would be: (i) training IF local points through a familiarisation mission with the IF core Agencies and Organization. Briefings among LDCs would be organized in order to exchange experiences on the IF implementation; (ii) enhancing the capacity of national IF steering committee, by providing them with basic office equipment, establishing a permanent focal point, training officers and project development, and the appropriate use of reference centres, such as the one established by the WTO and JITAP; (iii) arranging the participation of the local focal points in IF events of relevance for each LDC; (iv) providing support for identifying training needs for multilateral and regional trade negotiations and identifying ways to address those needs; (v) strengthening the private sector, using workshops.

39. The representative of Switzerland supported the ITC proposal but raised three points. With regards to the DTISs, he pointed out that consultants were often unfamiliar with the country and its needs. He questioned how effective these studies were if conducted on this type of basis. He questioned whether fixed funding allocations to countries were acceptable considering that the allocations were not based on the different necessities of each country. He suggested that allocations be made on a case by case basis. He also wondered who would be the partner to each government in order to ensure local capacity building and institutional infrastructure progress. He asked whether the 6 Agencies or the core donors would carry this out.

40. The representative of the UNDP supported the proposal from the ITC but wanted to draw attention to the financial situation. At the time of the IFSC meeting, 300,000 USD were available to finance these kinds of activities covering six LDCs. UNDP stated that if members agreed to accept to do new DTISs for 2003, the budget needed to be expanded, otherwise, financial limitations would be constraining.
41. Mr. Osakwe, on behalf of the six Agencies responded to the delegate from Switzerland. He commented that the ITC would not necessarily “tie up with” the JITAP process due to the fact that the JITAP process was currently being reviewed and that this had not yet been completed. He said that the matter was to be discussed at the next IAWG meeting. Mr. Osakwe also assured the Swiss delegate that the allocation of funds per country would be decided on a case by case basis. Lastly, he mentioned that the partner of the government would be coordinating on behalf of all the members of the IAWG, but that all of the key elements for approval would be decided within the IAWG.
42. The representative of the United States asked for the ITC proposal to be considered with caution, and suggested that further consultations be undertaken before a decision was to be made. The United States focused on the role of the facilitator and the fact that the facilitator did not have unlimited funds. He noted that the most important aspect of this process was to ensure success.
43. The Chairman supported the view that fixed funding allocation for LDCs were problematic given that they would not be based on a needs basis. He recognized that the amount for each country would have to be coordinated with the facilitator in each process.
44. The representative of Canada agreed in principle with the ITC proposal but only if it was to be decided on a case by case basis according to the discretion of the IAWG, which was responsible for funds management.
45. The representative of Zambia thanked the ITC for their proposal and agreed that not all LDCs would need this type of funding. He stressed the importance that the funding allocation decisions be made on a case by case basis. He also strongly mentioned that the creation of capacity before implementation of the IF was a very critical point for the effectiveness of all the process.
46. The Chairman stated that there was no current agreement on the proposal although they did agree on the main idea of the proposal. He suggested that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.
47. The delegate from the European Communities suggested that the ITC proposal be accepted as a pilot project in five countries in order to gather experience and invited views from other Members.
48. The representatives of United Kingdom, World Bank, Mauritania and Cambodia all supported the EC proposal.
49. The delegate from the United States, reiterated the point that funds were, limited. She suggested that funding allocations of 50,000 USD should be decided on a case-by-case basis.
50. Mr. Osakwe, on behalf of the six Agencies, requested the Chairman to clarify his decision to send the ITC proposal to the IAWG. He proposed that the ITC proposal be remitted to the IAWG in its role as the relevant decision making body.
51. The representative of Switzerland agreed with the proposal but observed that links should be identified between the facilitator and the ITC proposal and that the link between the ITC proposal and the terms of reference from the diagnostic team also be viewed carefully.

52. The representative of the World Bank said that the identification of needs varied according to each country's situation. She suggested that these needs be identified at the beginning rather than the end of the process in order to ensure effective private sector and government participation.

53. The delegate from the European Communities did not see the reason why the IAWG would not permit the implementation of the ITC proposal in a pilot situation. He also questioned the operation of the ITC proposal, found in the last paragraph of the implementation arrangement, regarding the core agencies coordination of the project activities.

54. The representative of the ITC said that its proposal would provide support to LDCs in building inner institutional capacity in order to benefit from the IF process. He noted that waiting until the next IFSC meeting to approve the ITC proposal, would risk losing valuable time. He suggested that they discuss the matter at present.

55. The Chairman accepted the EC proposal but advised that caution be used when allocating those funds due to funding limitations. He then urged donors to pledge more funds.

F. ROLE OF THE IF FACILITATOR

56. The representative of Switzerland underlined the importance of consolidating the internal capacity of each LDC to manage trade policy and trade-related operations as these vary from country to country. He expressed that some donors had already indicated that they would take on the role of facilitator. He recalled that one role which could be played by the facilitator *prior* the DTIS was to review past and ongoing studies in the trade sector in order to determine the need for new analyses and their terms of reference. Duplicating was to be avoided. He recommended that local resources be used for these processes. During the DTISs, the facilitator needed to be associated, and coordinate with local agencies in the respective country thus ensuring that priority inputs were included in the DTISs, and needed to participate actively in the dissemination of the final DTIS. He noted that once the DTIS was concluded, the role of the IF facilitator would be to help the country in organizing workshops and donor meetings. In the long term, the facilitator needed to be associated with monitoring the IF process.

57. The Chairman proposed to take note of the statements made by the representatives of Switzerland, and recommended that those principles were included in future work of the IFSC.

58. The representative of Senegal wanted to thank the EC for taking the role of facilitator in the process of Senegal. He also agreed that the Cambodia IF process should be used as a model for the IF experience among LDCs. He suggested that funding matters be treated with more flexibility.

59. The representative of United Kingdom recalled her country's role as facilitator in the Nepal and Lesotho processes. She noted that the revamped IF was a new process with many opportunities for its continued improvement.

G. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE IF ROUND TABLES

60. The representative of ITC reported on the five relevant countries. In Bangladesh, the main priorities were to improve the leather sector, and promote its exports. For this purpose a study on the leather sector was being realized. The Gambia's main priority was to strengthen the capacity of its Trade Ministry, and to assist in the preparation of sectorial strategies. In Haiti, the process focused on the improvement of its legal trade framework and capacity building of lawyers, on the strengthening of the capacity of its Trade Ministry, development of human resources in trade information and negotiation, and preparation of a DTIS in order to promote and develop a trade strategy. In the case

of Tanzania the process focused on the examination of a national trade law, to adopt to WTO agreements, strengthen references centres and the management of capacity building.

H. FINANCIAL REPORT BY UNDP ON THE IF TRUST FUND

61. The representative of UNDP presented a document with the financial report of the Trust Fund. The report was an update of the management of the Trust Fund, and the information included was until June 2002. It incorporated a summary and the main issues as well as guide lines. He mentioned that some funding included conditions by donors, which complicated the task of UNDP in managing the Trust Fund as UNDP also had its own criteria. He welcomed the close collaboration between UNDP and the World Bank. He noted that the balance for Window I stood at 300.000 USD, taking into account all the activities and for Window at 700.000 USD.

62. The representative of Canada took note of the report made by the UNDP, and suggested changing the word condition. She recalled that for some donor countries it was not possible to donate funds without time frames. She took note of the points raised by the UNDP representative, to be considered in any further donation.

63. The representative of United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden and Norway questioned the amounts included in the UNDP report, and requested their correction.

64. The representative of EC reiterated the importance of a discussion in the IFSC about Windows I and II. He said that it was fundamental to define the function of each one to avoid further misinterpretations. He requested that in the next meeting of the IFSC, Members be given clear guidelines from the IAWG about this matter. This would be a useful tool for donors, and was also a question of transparency and clarity matter.

65. The Chairman took note of the suggestions of the UNDP representatives. But he also recalled that each country had its own rules and methodologies on donor funding. He asked for more flexibility from each part. He endorsed the EC proposal to invite the IAWG to provide clarifications on the use of Windows I and II at the IFSC's next meeting.

I. RATIONALIZATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDER JITAP AND IF

66. The Chairman recalled that this item had been adjourned until completion of the review of the JITAP process, which had now been completed. The document containing its conclusions was available.

67. The representative of Canada said that the JITAP and IF were two complementary processes, as was clearly reflected in the document of JITAP II. She proposed to continue to maximize synergies between both instruments.

68. The Chairman took note of the statements made and proposed to revert to this item at the Committee's next meeting. Regarding the external evaluation of the IF, he invited the Chairman of the IAWG to draw up a document containing the draft Terms of Reference and addressing procedural issues to be discussed at the next IFSC meeting.

69. The representative of Switzerland questioned the need to wait until the next meeting, given the importance of the matter.

70. The representative of Canada noted that the inputs for the terms of references needed to be done in a tripartite manner, according to the composition of the IAWG (Donors, LDC and Core

Agencies). In this context she recalled that the United Kingdom assumed the role of Donors' representative.

71. The Chairman took note of the statements made and requested the representative of the United Kingdom to send her remarks regarding the external evaluation of the IF directly to the Chairman of the IAWG.

J. JOINT IF SEMINAR "TRADE MAINSTREAMING AND ENHANCING THE IF APPROACH"

72. The WTO Secretariat made a presentation of the programme for the Joint IF seminar. The programme was circulated among members.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

73. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.
