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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR SOUTHERN
AFRICA (ECA/SRDC/SA)
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT

Name: Guillermo Mangué

Purpose: To Participate in Stakeholders' Meetings on the
Integrated Framework for Trade-Related
Technical Assistance in Zambia

Venue: Lilayi Lodge, Lusaka, Zambia

Dates: 11 April 2001

Program Element: Networking and Information Exchange

23 April 2001

I. INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Framework (IF) is an outcome of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Plan of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) adopted at the first WTO Ministerial meeting held in Singapore in December 1996. The principal objective of the IF is to increase the benefits that the LDCs will derive from trade-related assistance made available to them by the six core agencies,¹ all of which involved in the IF and from other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources and thereby enhance their trade opportunities.

Zambia was among the initial 12 LDCs that were selected to participate in the IF and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry has been coordinating activities on the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to LDCs on behalf of Zambia.

The Office of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of the Republic of Zambia, in its letter Ref.: MCTI/72/15 dated 27th March 2001, invited the SRDC-SA to attend the Stakeholders' Meeting on Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance in Zambia.

The meeting was held on 11 April 2001 in Lilayi Lodge, Lusaka, Zambia. It was to review the report prepared by a consultant on Zambia's requirements for trade-related technical assistance. It was also intended to enhance dialogue among stakeholders, government/private sector/civil society and donors on activities to promote exports in Zambia, including coordination of trade-related bilateral and multilateral technical assistance.

I was directed to attend on behalf of UNECA/SRDC-SA. The following organizations also participated: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), European Union (EU), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

¹These are: World Trade Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre.

II. OUTCOME

The meeting identified the following sectors as having great export potential in Zambia: agriculture, mining, tourism, and manufacturing industry. However, it was acknowledge that despite the potential presented by those sectors, there were need for the government to:

- Strengthen trade policy formulation and implementation;
- Create a macroeconomic environment for trade;
- Overcome some perennial obstacles/impediments to trade expansion.

The strategy adopted by the meeting for promoting Zambian exports included the following:

1. Reinststate a government-private sector/civil society-donor policy dialogue process, which will effectively communicate on removing constraints to exporting, along with revising and prioritizing trade-related needs, which can be addressed by donors, e.g., Steering Committee on the Integrated Framework for Export Promotion.
2. Determine how the Steering Committee decisions will be incorporated into government and private sector activities.
3. Complete the Integrated Framework process.
4. Address the needs identified above in the government-private sector/civil society-donor dialogue.

I informed the meeting about the just concluded SRDC-SA's Round Table on partnership among Public Sector, Private Sector and Civil Society. The meeting took note of the Round Table and suggested further collaboration between SRDC-SA and the Steering Committee (to be formed between the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry-Private Sector, and Donors/Bilateral/Multilateral/Regional organizations) on this issue.

The meeting agreed to form the Steering Committee, draft its Terms of Reference and determine the number of its membership. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was set for 2 May 2001 to consider the draft TOR.

III. CONCLUSION

The Integrated Framework meeting was useful and worth attending. The meeting gave an opportunity to ECA to extend its potential for networking. It also gave ECA an opportunity to interact more closely with Zambia Private Sector, including informal sector operators, and to contact some individuals from Civil Society, some of them were not at the Round Table event.

IV. DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are available at SRDC-SA for reference:

1. **The Agenda of the Meeting;**
2. **How Zambia can Achieve Export-Led Economic Growth**, (background paper);
3. **Zambia Needs Assessments within the Context of the Integrated Framework** (presentation); and
4. **The Status of the Integrated Framework in Zambia** (presentation).