

**Report on the
Roundtable Meeting for Civil Society Organisations
February 27,2009
Lusaka, Zambia**

1. Background and Objective

- 1.1 Consumer Unity and Trust Society Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC) organised a roundtable meeting for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for the Poverty Reduction project. CUTS ARC recognises the potential benefits that the EIF process poses for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) such as Zambia in providing technical trade related assistance (TRTA). Therefore, the core of the EIF process is increased ownership of the process. It is in this regard that CUTS ARC organised this meeting so as to analyse and discuss on recommendations gathered on the EIF implementation in Zambia from a CSO perspective.
- 1.2 So far two national sensitisation workshops have been held and writing for research papers has commenced. More than 10 participants from civil society and the private sector actively participated in the discussions held during these workshops.
- 1.3 The EIF for the Poverty Reduction project is being carried out over a period of one year through research, capacity building, networking and advocacy in four major provinces *viz* Lusaka, Copperbelt, Luapula and Eastern Province. This one year project is expected to provide support to civil society umbrella organisations in Zambia to play an active role in the Trade Expansion Working Group (TEWG) and monitor the ongoing discussions and implementation of the EIF.

2. Opening and Discussions

- 2.1 The meeting began with opening remarks from Angela Mwape Mulenga, Coordinator CUTS ARC who read through the programme agenda. She said that she was greatly honoured to have an interaction with the CSOs and informed the meeting that CUTS ARC will be making a presentation on the status and implementation of the EIF in Zambia on behalf of Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR).

She went on to inform all about CUTS ARC implementing a one-year capacity building project on EIF for Poverty Reduction in Zambia. The objective of this project is for CUTS ARC to engage CSOs in Zambia in the EIF process and further support them to respond on the ongoing policy discussions on trade and development as part of the EIF process and thus play an active role in TWEG. The engagement of CSOs is important, as one of the weaknesses of the EIF process in Zambia has been lack of participation of CSOs, hence, this project will try and overcome this challenge, she added. She also urged CSOs to be proactive in ensuring that the EIF is implemented effectively for an overall benefit.

- 2.2 Rijit Sengupta, Deputy Head, CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation recognised the role that CSOs can play in shaping the global economy through the EIF process which in turn would foster development and that CUTS ARC was committed to building their capacity to play that role.

He acknowledged the importance of trade and that it should promote development of LDCs. He further highlighted that international trade policy realised the importance of integrating LDCs into the international economy. It was also realised that trade ought to meet the objectives of poverty reduction thus the introduction of initiatives such as the EIF. He said the EIF stresses on the integration of trade into national development policies and this could be achieved with active participation from all stakeholders. He encouraged all the organisations present to participate actively and that they should effectively execute their role as think tanks.

3. The status of implementation of the EIF in Zambia was presented by Patrick Chengo, Project Assistant CUTS ARC. He said Zambia's EIF programme comprises of six components – Trade Policy; Trade Capacity and Policy Coordination; Trade Facilitation; Standards, Quality Assurance and Metrology; Market Access and Market Penetration; and Aid for Trade.

He further stressed that Zambia has so far managed to set up a National Implementation Unit (NIU). It is the Focal Point Advisor and National Trade Expert. Rijit also informed that TEWG had been reconstituted based on the new Terms of Reference (ToR).

He also stressed that Zambia has embraced the concept of mainstreaming trade in its national development programmes and processes and that the finalisation of the Commercial, Trade and Industrial (CTI) Policy was done and submitted to the MCTI. He further informed the meeting that Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) was formed and the main priority areas identified included – making export incentives work for exporters, improving trade facilitation, enhancing capacity to formulate, coordinate and implement trade policy, and negotiate trade agreements.

He further informed the meeting that the priorities for Zambia for the year 2009 under the EIF initiative were to implement the honey and livestock value chain analysis and to address Intellectual Property (IP) implementation issues.

He also pointed out that Zambia is going to host a high level conference in the month of April on North to South Corridor, an Aid for Trade pilot programme aimed at reducing time and costs associated with transportation initiated by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Eastern African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

In his concluding remark Rijit said Zambia needed a good marketing strategy for the EIF logical framework and also needed to put in place a strong performance management system for inspiring confidence among all partners in the reliability of information on development effectiveness, thus achieving the goals of the overall EIF initiative.

4. Angela discussed the recommendations that emerged from the Kitwe and Lusaka workshops, which are as follows:

Recommendations – Lusaka Workshop:

- There is a need for market access and market linkages to be enhanced by ensuring improved local infrastructure and flexibility among developed nations on non-tariff barriers.
- Conduct comprehensive trade and gender analysis studies to facilitate gender mainstreaming in trade and EIF.
- There is a need to comprehensively review the DTIS and ensure it reflects the current status of the trade sector priorities such as IP Rights and Services etc.
- There is a need to revise the EIF and incorporate Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms so that there could develop a sense of ownership about the EIF. This could be done by resuscitating and revitalising the Sector Advisory Group (SAG). Further, ownership could also be enhanced through participation of various stakeholders.
- Recognise and strengthen the legislation of the Standard, Quality Assurance Mechanism (SQAM) as well as improve related infrastructure and also consider creating awareness on issues relating to SQAM with regard to consumer welfare.
- Zambia is currently in the process of reviewing the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) which comes to an end in 2011, therefore, there is a need to utilise this opportunity to harmonise the FNDP with EIF because currently they have different implementing timeframes and this could foster negative developments.
- EIF should also be cautious about trade facilitation by developing and enforcing legislation to allow information sharing among border agencies and also developing an Integrated Information Management System (IIMS) for border agencies including establishment of a risk management database so as to enhance efficiency.

Recommendations – Kitwe Workshop:

- There is a need to explore the possibility of creating geographical indications particularly in regions where Zambia has the capacity and is producing quality products such as honey in north-western province.
- The EIF process should empower and support organisations that advocate and support the poorest in the supply chain. Additionally, the DTIS should not only encompass cash crops but also food crops which some farmers produce.
- Suggestions and recommendations of TEWG should be communicated to all stakeholders and they should be inspired to participate in the workshops.
- The EIF process should look at helping Copperbelt Province to diversify and move away from its dependence on mining. New areas proposed were tourism and honeybee farming.
- The EIF process should consider providing more incentives to cross border traders.
- CUTS should utilise the existence of Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) local language programmes for a wider outreach in the marginalised communities. It was also suggested that CUTS should consider forming a network with the media for information dissemination.
- Issues of environment should be taken on board e.g. Bio fuels- what are the environmental implications and how the EIF process would mitigate the impact.
- CUTS in collaboration with MCTI should consider forming a Kitwe Chapter on the EIF i.e. EIF Working Group.

5. **Recommendations**

From the presentations and subsequent discussions several concerns, questions and recommendations emerged. The key ones are as follows:

- It was discussed that the Kitwe Chapter as proposed was a welcome suggestion and CUTS was urged to utilise the already existing organisations such as the Zambia Chambers of Commerce for Small and Medium Business Association (ZCSIMBA) or the Zambia Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ZACCI). This would speed up the process and cut off some unnecessary costs. CUTS should, therefore, look at broadening its programmes so that there could be sustainable programming which will be substantive to the formation of this chapter.
- It was also discussed that there was also a need for CUTS to send out information emanating from the EIF process to all Cross Border Associations (CBA). This came out because associations are directly involved in trade

facilitation and that it was found imperative for information to be made available to them. It was further suggested that CUTS should consider holding a sensitisation workshop for the CBA so as to build their capacity on the EIF initiative.

- CUTS ARC Lusaka should also consider creating an e-mail discussion group for keeping the discussions and dialogue alive and continuous. Often the discussions seep into cracks once the workshops are over, so there is a need to excel and further debate issues that are vital. There was a suggestion of creating a CUTS Zambia EIF web site and Rijit agreed to take up the responsibility. It was suggested that the web site should be named as www.EIFZambia@cuts.org.
- There was also a need to conduct a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the EIF with regard to the global economic crisis bearing in mind that it was constituted before the crisis began.
- There was need for other CSOs to exploit the existence of TEWG for an active and adequate participation in the EIF process.
- It was also suggested that the media be utilised and that focal points need to be established so as to enhance information dissemination. It was also suggested that a press release should be prepared based on the discussions.
- The EIF should take into consideration geographical indications. It was also suggested that the EIF should consider investing or funding trade facilitation because most border agencies were hardly equipped.
- There should be coherence and harmony between ministries such as Ministry of Agriculture and MCTI that are likely to contribute to the EIF.

Vote of thanks

Angela thanked the participants for their valued contribution and providing useful insight to the meeting. She urged them to pass on the information to other partners.

Annex I. Agenda

**ROUND TABLE MEETING FOR CSOs on the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF),
*Held on 27th February 2009 in Lusaka Zambia***

0800-0830 Registration

0830 – 1000: **Session I**

Welcome Remarks (CUTS-International)

Introduction to CUTS/the EIF project: CUTS- ARC/International

Floor Deliberations

1000 – 1015 Tea/Coffee

1015 – 1140 **Session II**

1. Status of implementation of the EIF in Zambia (20 min)

Presenter: CUTS-ARC

Floor Deliberations: (20min)

1140-13:15 **Session III**

**2. Presentation of the recommendations from the Lusaka, Copperbelt and
Luapula provinces (20min)**

Presenter: CUTS-ARC

Floor deliberations: (20min)

Presenter: Preamble of deliberations by rapportuer

Vote of Thanks

1315-1400 Lunch

End

ANNEX II: PARTICIPANTS' LISTS

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