

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY
AND TRADE

National Direction of Trade and Competition

Unit of Implementation of the Integrated Framework

**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE
CLUSTER ON TRADE AND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY
(UNCTAD XII- Accra, 20 April 2008)**

**Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Representatives of the agencies member of the Cluster,
Distinguished delegates of member States,
Distinguished participants,**

In my capacity as National Coordinator of the Integrated Framework Implementation Unit of Mali, I welcome the official launching of the interagency Cluster for the assistance on trade and productive capacity of the United Nations system. This new interagency coordination mechanism will lead to a wider and deeper impact of the assistance provided to the LDCs where the Integrated Framework is already operational.

Since 2005, the Integrated Framework programme in Mali has attained tangible results in terms of poverty reduction as the reports that will be made available to the delegates during this conference clearly prove. These results have been achieved thanks to the national institutional arrangements adopted by Mali that have had as its centre the technical assistance provided by UNDP, one of the cluster agency, and our strategic partner in the implementation of the IF in Mali.

The Unit in charge of the implementation of the assistance planned by the Integrated Framework has already identified the sectors and the operations of technical assistance where synergies with the agencies of the Cluster will become effective. This is the case, in particular, but not exclusively, for the export of mangoes – which is a key sector of the development strategy of Mali

The technical assistance provided by the agencies member of the Cluster such as UNIDO, FAO and the Regional Commissions may lose much of its effectiveness if it is undertaken without coordination with the operations planned within the Integrated Framework and vice versa. In this regard, assistance operations envisaged by the Integrated Framework and involving the Cluster's agencies have been already identified and are being implemented. Other operations will certainly be undertaken in the forthcoming months.

Furthermore, beyond the country level, we are planning to enlarge the synergy of the Cluster to the operations undertaken by the Working Group of the Integrated Framework of Western Africa countries, which is an initiative that we have launched. The Implementation Unit of Mali is already preparing a plan involving the International Trade Center and UNCTAD, according to the founding ideas of the Integrated Framework, ie the rational management of the resources available.

I hope that the example of Mali will be soon replicated in other LDCs where the assistance provided by the Integrated Framework is being implemented. I am convinced that all member States will support this opportunity to further enlarge the interagency coherence and cooperation already achieved within the Integrated Framework.

Thank you