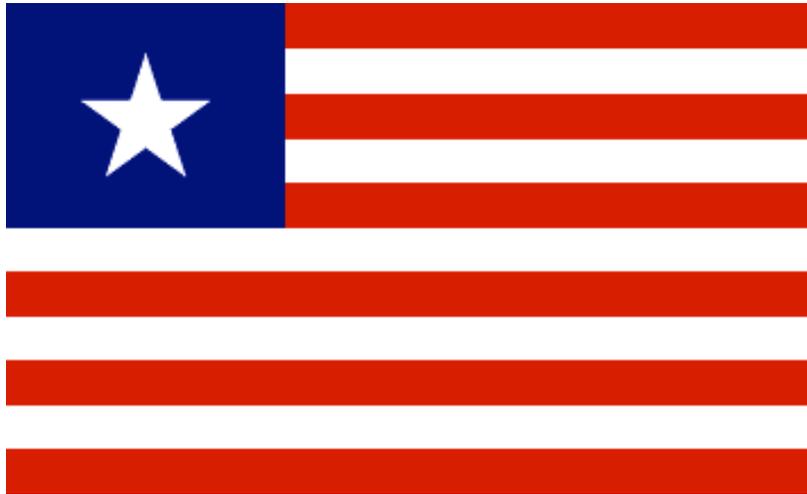


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**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**



**EIF Regional Workshop  
Enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Trade Development for LDCs  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
February 3, 2017**

**Statement by Liberia at the Second EIF Regional Workshop**

**H.E. Stephen Towain Marvie, Jr.  
*DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMERCE & TRADE SERVICES*  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

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## **“Liberia’s Experience with the EIF – an Opportunity to Enhance Inclusive and Sustainable Trade Development**

Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director of the Enhanced Integrated Framework

Dr. Joy Kategekwa, Head of Regional Office of UNCTAD

Excellencies,

Donor Facilitators,

Distinguished Focal Points,

Coordinators ,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like to thank the organizers for the opportunity to speak at the closing session of the regional workshop on the Enhanced Integrated Framework.

I bring you greetings from the Honorable Minister of Commerce and Industry, H.E. Axel M. Addy, who served as a focal point for our EIF about three years ago.

For the past decade, Liberia has witnessed a transformation in its trade ecosystem. We applied for WTO membership in 2007; launched the first National Trade Policy, an Export Strategy which looks at cocoa, oil palm, rubber, fish, tourism, and rubber wood for furniture, the DTIS, a draft Update, a WTO Accession Strategy, a WTO Post Accession Plan, several Donor Roundtables on Trade, and joined the ECOWAS Customs Union and finally acceded to the World Trade Organization in its Ministerial held on the African continent.

### **Liberia and the EIF**

Liberia’s EIF has also come a long way – from operating as a standalone outside of the Ministry to integration into the Ministry’s structure and to the establishment of the Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU). Today, the SPIU has attracted programs from the Governments of Japan and Sweden as well as the African Development Bank.

The mandate of the SPIU is to:

1. Monitor and evaluate all project-related activities;
2. Coordinate with Project Managers for the successful implementation of donor-funded projects;
3. Manage the fiduciary responsibilities of several donor-funded projects.

Through the SPIU and its staffing regime, the Ministry intends to continue leveraging the capacity obtained under the EIF and other donor-funded projects. This way we will be able to create new partnerships and better coordinated assistance for Liberia.

### **Trade Outlook in Liberia**

President Sirleaf signed Executive Order No. 74, mandating all ministries and agencies to coordinate in the implementation of the WTO Post Accession Plan. The Plan includes specific interventions regarding trade facilitation, trade integration, economic diversification, and trade in services. We would like to count on the EIF and other donors for their support in implementing the Post Accession Plan, which is also linked to the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the objectives of the EIF.

### **The EIF Regional Workshop and Liberia**

This workshop has provided an opportunity for us to pulse check and assess the level of work we are doing as focal points and coordinators. It provided us the networking we do not get from online interactions. It provided an opportunity for us to share cross-country experiences on various aspects of the EIF that we implement in our countries. We appreciate the fact that the EIF is well related to the SDG; and trade as a whole seems to be generally integrated into the national development plans of all countries participating in the workshop.

I would like to thank the donors and again thank the EIF for helping to play that meaningful role which supports LDCs to be more active players in the global trading system by helping them diagnose and provide the right policy options for the supply-side constraints to trade.

Thanks, and hope to continue with this lively partnership between the EIF and Liberia.

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