

Accra, 20 April 2008

Mr. Secretary-General, DG of the WTO, Chiefs and Representatives of the UN Agencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to be here today among you and say a few words from the donors' side.

- I want to join previous speakers in welcoming the launching of the CEB Interagency Cluster.
- I also want to thank UNCTAD Secretary-General for making this event happen.
- The launching of this Cluster allows Spain to reaffirm its commitment to align our procedures to allocate financial resources through the One-UN process and to support CEB agenda for coherence.
- Once immersed in the implementation phase of the Aid for Trade Initiative, the involvement of the CEB can widely contribute to help partner countries benefit from multilateral trading system. This is precisely the purpose of the global Aid for Trade Initiative, launched at the WTO 2005 Ministerial Conference. We firmly believe in trade as a crucial engine for economic growth, and that is why Spain is dedicating a growing amount of financial resources aimed at assisting developing countries to build trade capacity.
- Ministers agreed that Aid for Trade should aim to help developing countries, particularly LDCs, to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from WTO agreements and more broadly expand their trade. Ministers also asked a Task Force to improve the Integrated Framework, and the catalyst role the EIF can play made Spain take the decision to join other donors in participating in this mechanism.
- As we are all aware, there are many countries, not only LDC's, facing a wide range of supply side constraints that prevent them from reaping the full benefits from the multilateral trading system, and initiatives as the one to be launched today, can contribute to overcome that situation.
- We are especially satisfied with the emphasis the Cluster makes on the identification of complementarities between the assistance provided by all its members and the Aid for Trade initiative. For the sake of aid efficiency and effectiveness development agencies should fully exploit their own competitive advantages to map out priorities and programmes.
- Coordinated, integrated and demand driven responses to the enormous challenges facing some of the poorer developing countries, including increased involvement of the private sector, are critical to the effectiveness of donors support.

- As you know, Spain has become one of the top donors of the UN system, and is UNCTAD's second voluntary contributor. UN coordination definitively and positively encourages us to work forward, because this increased coordination will allow resources to match goals easier.
- My last comment will be to encourage other agencies to join the Cluster to help CEB make a coherent contribution to integrate poor countries in the world economy. Let us all work together for trade and development.

Thank you very much for your attention.