

## **ITC Joint Advisory group Meeting Malawi statement**

At the outset, we would like to congratulate the Chair for her stewardship to this JAG, and extend our congratulations to the ITC Executive Director Ms Pamela Coke Hamilton on her appointment and also thank and appreciate the Deputy Executive Director Ms Dorothy Tembo for her work during her acting capacity. We would also like to thank UNCTAD SG and Acting DG for WTO for their opening remarks and the continuous support to ITC. Malawi being a developing country has been a beneficiary of ITC in several ways that have ranged from capacity building and support several projects whose objectives have been very beneficial to the growth of the country.

- SheTrades outlook in Malawi - supported consultancy on SheTrades
- Collaborated with Malawi Investment and Trade Centre in setting up their Trade information portal that is running
- ITC reinforced National Statistical Office website by integrating a module for consultation of global trade statistics called "Trademap Malawi"
- The SDTF project that Malawi is working with ITC that will help the country to address the SPS and TBT issues that have always been a problem for our commodities export.

These projects among many other that ITC has been implementing in Malawi have been very beneficial to our country to improve its trade and development, by ensuring that our SMEs and government have updated and timely information for proper decision making.

ITC has also been approached by Malawi on some proposals such as the Anti Counterfeit legislation development, which will help Malawi to increase and improve its trade, and we have our buy Malawi strategy that we believe could be one way to achieve the much expected UN SDGs by 2030.

To this end, we appreciate how ITC conducts its work and its training, including the databases on its website that are very handy and beneficial to many SMEs that would not in a position to acquire the valuable information in a manner ITC provides.

Lastly, we would like to see the increase in allocations to ITC, as for a country like Malawi, there is a strong need to improve its trade competitiveness globally, we have a lot of informal trading that if formalised could contribute to our GDP. Most of our activities are also in services. We, therefore, call on ITC to also look into our services trade, this will help to build supply capacity and connect services SMEs to the international market.