

57th Joint Advisory Group Meeting of the ITC
Cambodia's Statement Delivered by H.E SUON Prasith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Cambodia to the WTO and IOs (Economy and Trade) in Geneva
20th July 2023 | WTO, Geneva, Switzerland

Thank you, Madam Chair, for convening this meeting and giving me the floor.

I deliver this statement on behalf of my Ambassador, SUON Prasith. My apology for not be able to participate in-person.

- At the outset, my delegation would like to join the others in congratulating you, **Her Excellency Ambassador Nadia Theodore of Canada**, for appointing as Chair of this 57th Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting. We look forward to your leadership and wish you a successful tenure. Similarly, we would also like to thank the outgoing Chair **Her Excellency Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady of Mauritius** for her exceptional contribution and leadership.
- My delegation would also like to thank WTO Director-General, **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, and UNCTAD Secretary-General, **Ms. Rebeca Grynspa** for the insightful and directive remarks. Our appreciations also go to the previous speakers for their remarkable and informative interventions.
- My delegation align ourselves with the LDC's statement delivered by the delegation of Nepal.
- We commend **Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton** and her entire team for the achievements made in the past year. We welcome the ITC Annual Report 2022 and its action plans. We also take a good note of ITC's continuous efforts and contribution in enhancing trade capacity of developing and least developed countries including Cambodia, through various configurations and initiatives.
- Among ITC's initiatives and activities, let me point out the recent seminar on "E-Commerce for Development: Training on Building an Enabling Policy Environment for E-Commerce and Digital Economy" held from 3-14 July 2023 in Beijing with the ITC technical support and funded by the Government of China, which provided participants the in-depth understanding and key aspects of the E-Commerce development and negotiation at the WTO and the evolution of the E-Commerce ecosystem in China. There are key takeaways from this seminar, including the necessity to invest on regulatory framework, ICT infrastructure, logistics to support a favorable E-commerce regime; the necessity to invest on skills and more pool of talented individuals; and the necessity to include Women, MSMEs, Young entrepreneurs to realize an inclusive, sustainable, and meaningful E-Commerce ecosystem. We welcome such impactful joint projects to increase negotiating capacity and policy awareness for developing and least developed countries.
- Recently, Cambodia has joined SheTrades Outlook initiative along with other countries. We highly expect that this initiative would serve as an innovative policy tool to access, monitor, and improve the ecosystem of Cambodian women's participation in the international trade.
- In terms of bilateral cooperation, the ITC and Cambodia enjoy a longstanding relationship that continues to grow. The vision and objectives of our national development strategy are anchored in private sector led growth and our partnership with ITC, for example on assessing NTMs on Company perspective, Silk project etc., are instrumental to implement this agenda. We have seen great results from investing in entrepreneurship, enhancing, and developing market led skills, and boosting the competitiveness and market access of small businesses. Such engagement has become instrumental not only to deliver the targeted result but also for transferring skills and knowledge through partnership. This engagement has made the ITC one of the renowned development partners for Cambodia.

- Last but not least, my delegation would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all donors supporting ITC's initiatives and partnership without which all these achievements would not be possible. We call on for more supports from the ITC and donor community to especially the vulnerable and least developed countries to ensure their meaningful and inclusive participation in global trade to leave no one behind.
- Cambodia looks forward to further enhanced collaboration and partnership with the ITC in the days ahead.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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