

Statement by Ethiopia at the 56th annual session of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre (ITC)

Excellency Ambassador Paul Bekkers, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Outgoing Chair of JAG,

Excellency Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius and Chair of the 56th Session of JAG,

Ms. Rebeca Grynspar, Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton Executive Director of ITC

Deputy Director-General of the WTO,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, for presiding over this 56th Annual Joint Advisory Group meeting of the ITC. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, for her effort and success in achieving the objectives and plan of the institution during the challenging year of 2021.

Ethiopia is grateful for the support provided by ITC and close partners to assist Ethiopia achieve inclusive and sustainable growth. ITC's partnership with the Government of Ethiopia in building a more competitive and sustainable SME sector in Ethiopia has been longstanding and expands across sectors. ITC provided support to Ethiopia, promoting south-south trade and investment linkages between Ethiopia and other developing countries like India and China through its Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA), and Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA) projects.

This year, ITC is supporting the coffee sector in Ethiopia through its, “*Ethiopia: Building Alliances for Action in Coffee from seed to cup (NTF-V) project*” which is a 4-way partnership between the International Trade Centre, the Government of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Ethiopian coffee stakeholders. This project is a culmination of an important pilot activity that we have been unrolling in our coffee sector over the past 4 years, to effectively lay the foundations for the scalable work we are implementing today with the NTFV project. At this juncture I would like to thank the government of the Kingdom of Netherlands for the support rendered for the project

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The annual report of JAG indicated that ITC recorded significant results in supporting LDCs. This should be commended. 2021 was a year of multifaceted challenge for the global economy, multilateralism and particularly for LDCs like Ethiopia who are straggling to meet their commitments for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These challenges equally affected Ethiopia. Among others, because of its geographical location, Ethiopia has been greatly impacted by the adverse effect of climate change, drought and floods. To combat the effects of climate change and with a vision of building green and climate resilient Ethiopia, an ambitious “green legacy” initiative was launched 2019, with an initial target to plant 20 billion tree seedlings over a period of four year. Thus far, close to 18 billion seedlings are planted. In its final year, the Green Legacy is expected to alleviate the challenges posed by the global food crisis and help Ethiopia achieve food self-sufficiency.

Let me conclude Excellency by once again reiterating the appreciation of the Government of Ethiopia for ITC as well as for the tremendous effort deployed by the Executive Director in this heightened global uncertainty. We look forward for further cooperation & collaboration.

I Thank you.