

Statement to be delivered by Myanmar at the 54th Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting of International Trade Centre (ITC)

25-11-2020 (10: 00 hrs)

Thank you Madam Chair.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Good morning,

It is my great honour to participate in this meeting.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate H.E Ambassador of Boswana and H.E Ambassador of Finland on your election as the Chair of this Meeting.

I also wish to take the opportunity to extend my congratulations to Ms. Pamela Coke Hamilton for assuming the Executive Director of ITC starting from this year.

Chair,

Myanmar has been cooperating with ITC since 2013 when the National Export Strategy was crafted in line with Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan with the technical assistance of ITC.

For almost a decade, Myanmar has implemented a series of projects with ITC in the areas of trade policy formulation, development strategies, trade facilitation, market access and business infrastructure.

We have witnessed the successful implementation of inclusive tourism projects, improving food safety, trade information network and integrating to global value chain.

Allow me to highlight a few key achievements of ITC's technical assistance under Myanmar ARISE Plus Project, Trade and Investment Project and Inclusive Tourism Projects.

Myanmar National Export Strategy is successfully upgraded up to 2025, trade and investment promotion policies are strengthened, and tourism sector gained competitiveness with 15% increase in tourist arrival at Kayah, 75% income increase in village areas and introducing new cultural tourism products etc.

Myanmar food products get new market linkages and integrate to global value chain due to quality management and SPS compliance.

Even in the time of COVID 19, ITC initiated activities to adapt the project implementation successfully. The major activities include advising the Myanmar COVID 19 Economic Recovery Committee, drafting ecommerce guidelines, finalizing safety tourism guidelines, making survey on the impact of COVID 19 on the export sector etc.

We are confident that the ongoing projects on will also be fruitful and produce tangible outcomes.

Chair,

We welcome the ITC's 2019 Report and the findings and recommendations contained in Annual Evaluation Synthesis Report (AESR).

As recommended in the AESR, ITC's project planning and implementation should focus on synergies and support networks coordination in design, implementation and leveraging their capabilities in a policy-coherent fashion.

We acknowledge the importance of enhanced ITC continuity at the country level and flexibility and commitment of stakeholders to overcome the challenges.

As the activities of ITC in Myanmar are very crucial and beneficial for export diversification and value chain development, Myanmar fully supports the innovative initiatives taken by the ITC. We also thank the development partners and business organisations for their continued support.

We look forward to working closely with ITC in implementing innovative initiatives and projects in the country.

Thank you Chair.