



**Statement by Jamaica**  
**56<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Trade Centre (ITC) Joint Advisory Group (JAG)**  
**Meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

This statement is being delivered on behalf of Her Excellency Ambassador Cheryl Spencer.

At the outset, my delegation wishes to congratulate you Ambassador Canabady on your appointment as Chair of this 56<sup>th</sup> Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting. I would also like to use the opportunity to express thanks to Ambassador Paul Bekkers for his able stewardship over the 55<sup>th</sup> Session and for his statement delivered at the start of this morning's session.

My delegation took note of the statements delivered by DDG Zhang on behalf of Director-General, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and that of the UNCTAD Secretary-General, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan. Both spoke to the importance of the tripartite collaboration of ITC- UNCTAD- WTO or the Geneva Trade Hub which is critical in ensuring that trade continues to serve as an engine for economic and social development especially in a post- Covid -19 environment. The continued positive synergy amongst all three organizations is also imperative to our collective efforts in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we redouble our efforts towards achieving Agenda 2030 , Jamaica remains encouraged that the ITC continues to align its work with the SDGs as highlighted by the Executive Director of the ITC, Ms. Pamela Coke Hamilton during her presentation and as outlined in Organization's Annual Report for 2021. Under the leadership of Ms. Coke Hamilton, the ITC has showcased its tenacity and agility

by responding to the needs of member states amidst the plethora of challenges and the cascading crises being faced by the global community. Jamaica commends the ITC for playing its part in building inclusive and sustainable recovery especially for developing countries by offering support in areas such as climate change, digital transformation and capacity building for MSMEs.

The Government of Jamaica values its longstanding partnership with the ITC and the continued support to the country's economic growth agenda. I wish to briefly highlight some of the recent and successful projects:

- **The Alliances for Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean (Coconuts II)**

Under this project, the ITC collaborated with the Alligator Head Foundation, a non-profit organization which focuses on marine preservation and the Coconut Industry Board in Jamaica to build the capacities of lead farmer groups in fostering environmental stewardship, safeguarding and restoring biodiversity, as well as adaptation to climate change effects like rising sea levels. There has been tremendous success under this project and Executive Director Hamilton was able to experience it first hand during her visit to Jamaica earlier this year.

- **Cocoa Project**

The ITC has and will continue to support Jamaican cocoa processors to participate in the Salon du Chocolat which is a yearly chocolate trade fair. The participation of our local producers in this trade fair provides them with a unique opportunity to exhibit their products, network, find distributors as well as learn about new technologies and innovation in the chocolate industry.

- **Capacity Building and Training**

As the Government of Jamaica continues to execute its Economic Diplomacy programme, there is a recognition of the need for continued training and capacity building of diplomats and trade officials. Jamaica was therefore pleased to collaborate with the ITC in organizing a virtual training on market intelligence in March of this year. The training offered participants exposure to the suite of online tools of the ITC as well as explored areas relevant to trade such as rules of origins, market access requirements and export competitiveness.

Jamaica hopes to continue its collaboration with the ITC and looks forward to upcoming activities including :

- the visit of technical team of the Basque Culinary Center to Jamaica in mid-October 2022 to explore Jamaica's gastronomy and
- Training on post harvest and fermentation of cocoa beans to be organized in coordination with Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA).

As was expressed at the 55<sup>th</sup> JAG , the importance of the services sectors especially tourism which are key economic drivers from many small islands like Jamaica cannot be ignored. There is need for further economic diversification and an accelerated pace of digital transformation for our MSMEs. We look forward to the ITC continuing to increase its attention in these areas and have taken a positive note of the four main areas of focus for the next year : gender, green recovery, youth and digital connectivity.

Chair,

In closing, Jamaica commends the donors and other developments partners who continue to see the value in supporting the work of the ITC by their invaluable

contribution to the regular budget and extra budgetary resources as well as technical support.

Jamaica appreciates the work of the ITC and the Organization can be assured of Jamaica's full support as it continues to actively pursue its mandate and serve the needs of its members and clients.

I thank you.