

Statement at the ITC Joint Advisory Group Meeting
(20 July 2023)

Madam Chair,

Her Excellency Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC

Viet Nam joins others in thanking *Director-General of WTO Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Secretary-General of UNCTAD Rebeca Grynspan, ITC Executive Director Pamela Coke-Hamilton* and other speakers this morning for their strategic vision, informative briefings and insightful remarks. On this occasion, I would like to share a few points as follows.

1. Viet Nam is delighted to witness the many achievements of ITC in the past year, particularly in supporting vulnerable groups in facing international trade these days amid the volatile and complex environment. *Viet Nam commend Executive Director Pamela Coke-Hamilton of the ITC* for her able leadership to help setting and implementing the strategic plan of ITC with prominent achievements and impacts, assisting developing countries, vulnerable groups, small businesses to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, support trade for sustainable development, through various measures.

Viet Nam also commend the ITC in providing assistance MSMEs in digital transition and green transformation as well as accessing foreign markets and fostering trade in services *through various initiatives, programmes*, in supporting vulnerable businesses, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) which play an increasingly vital role in trade and development.

2. Viet Nam has been an active member of the ITC since 2007 as Viet Nam has been proactively engaging in international trade for socio-economic development.

On this occasion, Viet Nam sincerely appreciates ITC and the donors community for *ITC's technical support and capacity building for Viet Nam in the past decades, including our partnership with ITC in implementing ITC pilot projects.*

We are delighted that during the visit of Executive Director Pamela Hamilton to Viet Nam last September, she has witnessed the fruits of the projects and supporting activities that ITC has helped bring about for MSMEs in Viet Nam.

To date, thanks to the ITC and donors community, Viet Nam has gained access to several programs and services supported by the ITC aimed at enhancing Vietnamese SMEs export competitiveness and trade promotion, including SheTrades Initiative, the Trade for Sustainable Development Project, the Green2Compete Project.

In dealing with most severe global challenge of climate change, Viet Nam is a pioneer in the region, catching up with the development trends of the world and

realizing our 2050 net-zero carbon emissions target, the shift to circular economy and green growth, as we recognize this is not only an inevitable choice but also an opportunity for Viet Nam, one of the countries most affected by climate change and sea level rise. Therefore, Viet Nam appreciate ITC and EU for supporting *Viet Nam as one of participating countries in ITC new project entitled “Climate Competitiveness: Building opportunities in the green economy for emerging and developing countries” funded by the EU.*

We believe that the implementation of this project will facilitate Viet Nam and other participant countries *in adapting trade policies and practices with climate change adaptation as well as strengthening its participation in the discussion on trade and environment at the WTO for promoting trade and sustainable development goals.*

Viet Nam has also been cooperating with other donors and developing countries in successfully implementing *several trilateral projects*, such as in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries for development. Viet Nam also actively works with members of Francophonie member states to promote business relationship, including the organization of the Francophonie Business Forum in Viet Nam in March 2022.

3. Moving forward, we would appreciate ITC to enhance coordination with specialized international organizations such as WIPO, ITU and financial organizations in helping MSMEs, women in trade, with programmes such as SheTrades and We-Export, *to leverage digital and IP tools* to enhance competitiveness, access new markets, and streamline cross-border transactions as well as actively promoting sustainable trade, bridging gender gaps in access to resources and opportunities in international trade for development.

Having supported by the international community and managed to navigate the LDC status graduation and achieved trade-led development, Viet Nam would appreciate continued cooperation and assistance by the ITC and donors, other members in implementing the ITC strategic plan with innovative approaches and programmes, *including ITC regional Hub initiative*, for enhancement of regional and cross-regional coordination in implementation of ITC projects and programmes.

Amid the historically global turning point, in 2024, the ITC and UNCTAD will celebrate their 60 years of existence and the WTO will organize its important MC-13. We believe that the ITC strategic plan 2022-2025, together with the WTO’s and UNCTAD’s visions and commitment for revitalizing international trade and development will together help forge conducive environment for delivering sustainable, inclusive and transformative trade for development.

In closing, my Delegation and I congratulate the ITC Executive Director and ITC team for the past achievements and look forward to further co-operation with ITC and its partners in the coming time.

Thank you very much!