Statement by H.E. Mr. Marwa J. Kisiri,
Head of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP),
Geneva office,

During the 46th Session of
The Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of ITC

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, on behalf of the ACP Secretariat, to commend the Executive Director, Madam Patricia Francis, and the entire staff of ITC for the successful preparation of the 2011 Annual Report, other JAG documents, and for presenting these high quality documents to delegations in due time.

We are glad to note that the ITC delivered more trade-related technical assistance in the year 2011 than it has ever done before; and that fifty-five percent (55%) of ITC’s total delivery in 2010 and 2011 was dedicated to LDCs, Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the resilience demonstrated by developing and transition-economy countries amid the global economic crisis, there is still a lot to be done to eliminate the obstacles that prohibit the full integration of developing countries into the global economy.
In most developing countries, markets remain highly fragmented with various infrastructural constraints limiting the overall level of trade to sub-optimal levels. It is our belief that the global Aid for Trade agenda; spearheaded by the World Trade Organization (WTO) is critical to finding solutions to these challenges. We are also equally convinced that alongside the WTO, international organizations such as the ITC, UNCTAD, and the World Bank, have an equivalently important role to play in addressing these constraints. We are therefore pleased to note that the ITC's work programme remains fully aligned with the Aid-for-Trade agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to take this opportunity to convey our congratulations to the ITC for achievements made in its set targets and performance measures for the 2011-2012 biennium such as; increasing the number of export development strategies from thirty-three (33) in the 2008-2009 biennium to fifty-one (51) in the 2010-2011 biennium; Increasing the number of country networks having generated multilateral trading system related activities through the support of ITC from seventy-four (74) to one-hundred-and-thirteen (113); Enriching the negotiating positions of countries by providing analytical input and supporting business sector participation; and other accomplishments made such as increasing capacity of Trade-Support-Institutions (TSIs) and strengthening international competitiveness of enterprises through training and direct support.

ACP-ITC COOPERATION IN COMMODITIES

Mr. Chairman,

Allow us to refer to some of the achievements of the longstanding partnership between the ACP and the ITC; particularly in regard to the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme (AAACP).
upstream stages of the value chains; such as rural development, farm production, communities, rural infrastructure, provincial markets, and less on value addition, processing, manufacturing, market linkage and product-development related support. This is the one area for improvement that we would like to highlight.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the ITC for the progress it continues to make in strengthening its internal operations. In this regard, we applaud the ITCs move towards launching a modern corporate log framework, which we believe will translate into even more efficient delivery of its services in the future.

Thank you.