STATEMENT

BY

KENYA DELEGATION

AT THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)

21ST – 22ND MAY, 2012

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Thank you Mr. Chairman and congratulations on your appointment as the Chair of the Joint Advisory Group.


2. We concur and agree with its observation that the economic downturn in industrialized countries coupled with effects of global financial crisis and other emerging challenges such as Climate Change have undoubtedly impacted negatively on exports from poor developing countries particularly the SMEs whose export range is narrow and dependent on a small number of markets.

3. Mr. Chairman, against this backdrop, we have taken note of ITC’s responses informed by the five strategic objectives namely; building awareness, strengthening trade support institutions, enhancing policies, supporting enterprises, and mainstreaming inclusiveness and sustainability.

4. Throughout 2011, a considerable number of activities were planned and executed under the five areas with some encouraging and impressive results and outcomes. Just to recognize and highlight a few of these outcomes.

   a) Under Sector Approach to Supporting Enterprises;

      ➢ Programmes designed to supporting enterprises through export-driven sector development for high-potential commodities in vulnerable countries was the key focus. As a result the first fully washed sample shipments of coffee from Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo that have achieved a 25% premium in the EU market was realized. This is commendable.

      ➢ With the support of the Netherlands Trust Fund II Programme focusing on enhancing the competitiveness of sectors with high export potential in five countries, the activities that were undertaken focusing on strengthening the institutions within sectors have assisted Kenya’s small scale coffee farmers to improve the quality of coffee exports in a relatively shortest period as a result of the training delivered to coffee farmers associations in coffee drying, sorting and storage methods. Furthermore, it is noted that through the Fresh
Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, ITC is working with three commodity-working groups to devise a strategic long-term vision to boost exports of the Kenyan avocados, mangoes and passion fruits. As a country, we are indeed pleased to be associated with these activities.

b) Finally, regarding the other objective Related to Mainstreaming Inclusiveness and Sustainability;

- We welcome your observation and recognition in the report that export growth does not automatically translate into human development and is therefore not an end to itself hence, the need to integrate human development objectives into your TRTA activities with particular emphasis on gender, poor communities and the environment.

- To this end, you are therefore working to ensuring an enabling business environment for women-owned businesses through delivery of gender-focused export development programmes. Accordingly, Non-Tariff Measures gender reports for Peru, Burkina Faso and Kenya, are under development, besides, helping Kenyan exporters to reduce emissions from the horticultural sector and meet set carbon standards. We appreciate these efforts and thank ITC and the donor community accordingly as we welcome ITC’s Strategic Plan 2012-2015 and corporate log frame. At this point we would like to emphasize the importance we attach to programmes related to gender mainstreaming and poverty reduction.

- Last but not least, Mr. Chairman, I cannot of course conclude my statement without mentioning the Ethical Fashion in Kenya. Four years ago, ITC approached the world’s biggest fashion houses to promote its ethical fashion initiative. Using raw and reclaimed materials, the initiative is now providing sustainable employment to 12 core communities of producers in both Uganda and Kenya, with approximately 1,200 people – coordinated from the business and production hub in Nairobi. For you ITC, this is a ‘Big Achievement” in that region. In the report before us you have clearly stated that “you walk the talk” and we say yes, indeed with Ethical Fashion you have really walked the talk.

Thank you.