Address by Ambassador Gulnara Iskakova
Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the UNOG
ITC Joint Advisory Group 46th Session
Geneva, 21-22 May 2012

Dear Ambassadors Gordillo and Badr,
Dear Madam Francis, Dear Mr. Lamy and Dr. Panitchpakdi,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Government I would like to express appreciation to the organizers for inviting Kyrgyzstan to this 46th annual session. We are pleased to be here and to make our input to review and discussion of the ITC’s past and future activities.

As you might have noticed, the 2011 ITC annual report features a case study on Kyrgyzstan where since 2009 ITC has assisted small and medium enterprises of the textile industry to enhance their export capacity. That is just one side of our multifaceted, long-standing cooperation with the ITC in trade and development. All of the ITC projects implemented in Kyrgyzstan have surely brought added value to respective sectors of the national economy and poverty reduction. Of course, those projects have become positive reality with generous financial contribution from donor countries, including Switzerland. In this regard, the Government of Kyrgyzstan thanks donor governments for support of our economic development initiatives. In addition, both donors and ITC help Kyrgyzstan achieve, along with trade and investment agenda, many critical Millennium Development Goals.

In the present socio-economic program “Stability and Decent Life” the Kyrgyz Government pursues robust development of private sector enterprises, especially export-oriented manufactures, which are thought to be one of the
central drivers of economic growth. The economic policy pillared on optimization of state regulation and strengthening of business friendly environment encourages SMEs to expand operations, introduce new jobs and generate decent incomes. On the other hand, it also fosters conditions conducive for legalization of shadow economy and inflow of foreign direct investments.

In translating of the policy into successful practice, both governmental institutions and export-oriented private sector need to continue build up on their capacities. So, there exists unambiguous demand for ITC’s expert services in Kyrgyzstan despite the envisaged completion of the trade promotion project in 2012.

Let me briefly outline areas in which Kyrgyzstan relies on ITC assistance:
- development and implementation of the national export strategy;
- operationalization of the Kyrgyz Accreditation Center and acquiring membership in International Laboratory Accreditation Center (ILAC);
- support to SMEs with product development, quality-management, marketing, including market intelligence sharing and participation in international fairs, in order to strengthen competitiveness in foreign markets, including Russia.

In this connection, I would like to reiterate the interest of the Kyrgyz Government in maintaining productive cooperation with the ITC on trade facilitation issues. We are open to share our best practices in export promotion with other countries as well. Using this occasion, I would like to encourage donor countries to make financial contributions to the ITC.

Thank you.