Statement Made by the delegation of Nepal on 46th JAG meeting of ITC, 21 May, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to preside over the 46th Joint Advisory Group Meeting. My delegation is fully confident that under your able guidance this meeting will be concluded successfully.

The International Trade Center has been supporting the developing countries in enhancing their trading capacity since its inception. The LDCs and the countries in Africa have also been benefited from ITC’s large number of project activities. However, much remains to be done in favor of the LDCs which remain grossly marginalized in the world economy due to their negligible share of global trade. We emphasize that the ITC has an important role to play in the realization of trade related goals and objectives contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs. The ITC, working in collaboration and promoting complementarity with other UN agencies and WTO, could help the LDCs through technical assistance and other support measures in developing quantified and measurable targets in the priority area of trade.

Productive capacity building remains very weak in the LDCs. Enhanced trading capacity is inherently linked to productive capacity building. Therefore, trade remains a vital element, truly an engine of growth. However, the LDCs have not been able to reap benefits from the global trading regime due mainly to limited market access, further compounded by stringent rules of origins and supply-side constraints.

Though the aid for trade and enhanced integrated framework (EIF) are making some positive contributions to build our trade capacity, the financing
of the EIF has remained insufficient. We call upon the development partners and international organizations to expedite the work on aid for trade by providing adequate funds for implementing well-targeted programmes, enabling measures, including the LDCs’ increased participation in international trade, by enhancing their productive capacity.

It is worth noting that the ITC has been working on identifying market access, product development, addressing supply side constraints and trade capacity building of the SMEs by supporting the private sector in the most vulnerable economies. We renew our call that there should be focused and stronger support to the LDCs in all areas of the ITC activities. The ITC will not be able to fulfill its mandate without adequate resources from the development partners.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention ITC’s research work for Nepal which has enabled us to formulate the new Trade Policy, 2009, and the preparation of the Nepal Trade Integration Strategy 2010. We would like to thank the ITC for the support extended to Nepal and call for its substantive engagement in Nepal with a view to helping Nepal identify potential markets, develop competitive products and provide other support measures for enhancing its overall trading competitiveness. As a landlocked least developed country emerging from conflict, Nepal faces a multitude of development challenges and we call upon our valued development partners, including WTO, UNCTAD and ITC, to provide scaled-up support and assistance in building our trading capacity which will eventually lead to eradication of grinding poverty and hunger in our country.

I thank you all for your kind attention.