STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT FORTY SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JOINT
ADVISORY GROUP ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to attend the Forty Sixth Annual Meeting of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC). We join previous speakers in commending ITC for the excellent documentation prepared for the meeting. We thank Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General WTO; and Mr. Superchai, Secretary General, UNCTAD for their opening statements.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Since 1964, the International Trade Centre has helped developing and transition economies achieve sustainable development through exports by activating, supporting and delivering projects with an emphasis on achieving competitiveness. It does this by providing trade-development services to the private sector, trade support institutions and policymakers, and by working with national, regional and international bodies.

3. The 2011 report indicates that, ITC has delivered more trade-related technical assistance than it has ever done, exceeding its delivery target and demonstrating credible results across all of its performance measures. This is a development that needs commendation.

4. It is also instructive to note that ITC has also placed more emphasis on large, multi-year programmes, which independent evaluations have confirmed are more efficient, generate a higher level of stakeholder buy-in and are likely to achieve greater impact. My delegation is glad that ITC is currently identifying the next generation of large projects, and is engaging with donors, beneficiary countries and partners to plan for work beginning in 2013.
Mr. Chairman,

5. Nigeria welcomes the ITC Strategic Plan for 2012-1215. The Plan presents the ITC's objectives and milestones for increasing the impact of its technical assistance activities in developing countries. While this Strategic Plan is rooted in the concepts and accomplishments of the previous Plan, it also represents an important step forward for the ITC in terms of a more integrated approach for delivery and results measurement of ITC's interventions, and in terms of a corporate direction to incrementally demonstrate the socio-economic impact of ITC's work.

6. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Nigeria has initiated reforms aimed at diversifying the economy from dependence on oil to non-oil export products. To that end, the Government of Nigeria is working on a Strategic Plan for Trade and Investment; and would be approaching the ITC and donors for assistance with its implementation. We also call on the ITC to implement some of the outstanding programmes and projects that Nigeria submitted to it.

7. I thank you.