Thank you Mr. President, and congratulations on your election as chair. It is both pleasure and an honor to attend the 46th session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group. On behalf of the United States, I would like to thank Patricia Francis, her management team, as well as the ITC staff for their good work over the past year, as well as for the work that went into preparing for the Joint Advisory Group.

Overall, we congratulate ITC for its programming in 2011, in particular for the high quality of its trade-related technical assistance. We are also pleased with ITC’s corporate log frame and its demand-driven approach. We believe these will contribute greatly to the effective implementation of ITC’s mandate, which we continue to support. We would also like to take the opportunity to commend ITC in some specific areas:

1. The United States welcomes the hard work undertaken by ITC in the area of Results-based management. Efforts on training, project quality assurance, and evaluation are starting to pay off. Given the importance of RBM, it will be important for ITC to allocate regular budgetary resources to ensure continued progress in the future.

2. We note with satisfaction ITC’s work on women and trade, women’s entrepreneurship, and ITCs progress in mainstreaming gender throughout its work. In this regard there is still a great deal of work to be done. We encourage ITC to continue in this direction.

3. We would also like to commend ITC for its work in trade intelligence: building capacities in trade information services and providing market analysis and intelligence. Trade intelligence provides a basis for growth in trade, and the United States encourages ITC to continue its good work in this area.

4. Furthermore, we would like to encourage ITC to continue its efforts to move from smaller project-based initiatives to larger programs that can have a more measurable and lasting impact.

5. Finally, we welcome the initiative to grow the capacity of trade support institutions in beneficiary countries through the deployment of the benchmarking program and we recognize the importance of continued regular budgetary support to make this program sustainable.

In the year to come, we look forward to working closely with other countries and with the ITC Secretariat to help the organization fulfill its mandate in an effective and efficient manner.