FORTY SIXTH SESSION OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) 
ITC/UNCTAD/WTO 21-22 MAY 2012: STATEMENT BY ZIMBABWE

Thank You, Mr Chairman

We thank the ITC for the reports which reflect on the organisation's work in the past year and the outline of future programmes and activities. We thank also the donor community for its support, which has provided the necessary sustenance for the activities of the ITC towards building export development capacity and productive enterprise of the developing countries, in particular, the least developed.

The reports have enabled us to appreciate the on-going technical assistance and capacity building activities of the ITC at both national and regional levels for the beneficiary countries, and the challenges facing both the ITC and the countries in the resourcing and delivery of the assistance, on one hand, and the ability of the countries to take full advantage of the assistance on the other hand, against the background of global economic uncertainty and emerging global trade issues.

The ITC seminar on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) held earlier this year was a useful exercise to share experiences and learn from the results of the studies carried out in selected developing countries, including in Africa.

We have noted the strategic focus of the ITC on strengthening export capacity of enterprises to respond to market opportunities. It is clear that
the ITC has a major task ahead for both national and regional programme delivery, given the need to create jobs, especially for the youth and women, and thereby increase income and reduce poverty.

Zimbabwe concluded its 2nd WTO Trade Policy Review in October 2011. Recently, in March, the country launched its National Trade Policy and the Industrial Development Policy, which aim to transform the country from a producer of primary goods into a producer of processed value – added goods for both domestic and export market. In this regard, Zimbabwe looks forward to continued ITC activities in the Eastern and Southern African region, which is also host to a large number of land-locked developing countries, including Zimbabwe. In particular, ITC work in the areas of value addition for commodity producers, logistics bottlenecks, value chain complementarities and capacity which will be beneficial to Zimbabwe.

While the global economic outlook is not very encouraging, and the financial capacities of traditional ITC donors uncertain, we remain hopeful that additional or alternative funding sources will be found and that the traditional donors will not tire in their efforts to continue to support the activities of the ITC.

I thank you