Australian JAG Statement

- Thank you Chair for the opportunity to make some brief comments on behalf of the Australian delegation. Allow me to join others in congratulating you for taking on your role as Chair of the 47th session, and thanking your predecessor for his work.
- Since the last JAG meeting, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs launched a Private Sector Development Strategy for AusAID, cutting across the work of the Australian aid program. As the Australian aid program continues to expand, this Strategy ensures that trade, economic empowerment, and other issues related to the growth of health private sectors will be at the heart of our programming choices.
- In this context, Australia is pleased to have recently agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding with the ITC to deliver a project that will contribute clearly to the implementation of this strategy. The $3 million project will focus on increasing women’s economic empowerment in the Pacific. The signature of this MOU is a clear sign of Australia’s confidence in ITC and in its objectives. Pacific Island countries face unique and considerable challenges in taking advantage of market access opportunities, and we encourage ITC to continue looking to the Pacific as an area where the organisation it can make significant impact, and build on its existing work.
- Chair, we commend the emphasis ITC has placed on achieving, measuring, and reporting the results of its work. The achievements made by ITC in this area in recent years are truly noteworthy. We encourage ITC to continue its focus on this, and to see results-based management not just as a mechanical process, but as a way of ensuring that lessons are learned from previous projects, and that the effectiveness and impact of ITC’s work is maximised as a result.
- We also encourage ITC to continue its focus on where it has a unique role to play, and where it adds the most value among the many donors and organisations involved in Aid for Trade. The strong in-house expertise that ITC has in working with Trade Support Institutions, and helping connect SMEs to markets differentiates it from other organisations.
- In the same context, we welcome the efforts ITC has made in the past year to continue reviewing its priorities and ensuring its work is focused on the full range of export opportunities for developing countries in the contemporary global trading environment. The reinvigoration of the ITC Trade in Services program is a particularly welcome development. Australia believes that there is considerable potential for LDCs in particular to increase their share of global services trade, while also increasing employment and reducing poverty, and we hope ITC will play its part in this effort.
• Allow me to conclude by paying tribute to Executive Director Patricia Francis for her efforts over the years. Executive Director, we believe that you have left the organisation in a strong position to build on its important work and deliver programs with maximum impact. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

• Thank you