Executive Director, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ambassador Pierce, let me start by joining others in congratulating you on your election as chair of this important Group for the coming year. We are confident that you will continue the good work of previous chairs.

I am pleased to take the floor on the behalf of Denmark at this session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group.

Mme Chair,

At the outset, let me thank ITC and its staff for the high-quality and timely documentation provided for this meeting.

A number of issues in my statement have already been mentioned by the panels and by a number of other colleagues, such as NL, Germany, France, UK and Finland. I would also like to thank speakers before me representatives of beneficiaries for their interesting and comprehensive interventions.

Allow me to make a few points on behalf of Denmark.

As mentioned by Mrs Francis in her introductory remarks, ITC has undergone considerable change in the past years and this has – in our view – made it better prepared for the future.

We look forward to the upcoming ITC-wide evaluation that will provide an external and independent assessment of this progress made since the previous evaluation of 2006.

We expect the Evaluation to provide concrete recommendations for enhancing the organization and its abilities to respond to the needs of beneficiaries in a coherent, effective and efficient manner. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all stakeholders and beneficiaries to make themselves available to the Evaluation Team both in Geneva and in the field in order to give the Team the best possible
basis for their assessment. In this context, we would like to express our gratitude to the previous Chair of the JAG, Ambassador Gordillo, for the constructive role he played in concluding the Terms of Reference for the independent evaluation. We are pleased to be able to support this evaluation along with a number of other donors.

Referring to the presentation of Deputy Director Jean-Maire Paugam this morning; two major challenges of ITC for 2013 remains **funding** and **innovation**. We look forward to learn more about the new needs assessment methodology project the large programme pipeline during the discussions tomorrow.

Larger, more integrated programmes are intended to increase impact, effectiveness and efficiency; in this context we would like to echo the possibility for exploring whether it would be appropriate to fund larger programmes by resources in Window I.

The funding challenge is also linked to the results – and in this context, we would like to strongly commend ITC for the progress made in **RBM**. We look forward to RBM being fully embraced and embedded in the ITC and to the further development and expansion of the tool to include costing data and sustainability and inclusiveness considerations.

On the other challenge, **innovation**, we agree that ITC should focus on how SMEs in poor developing countries can better **take advantage of regional and global value chains** both in terms of diversified their export base and in terms of increased value of its production and export. The Trade and Environment Programme also supports this approach in specific sectors focusing on making the value chain more sustainable. We look forward to the Global Aid for Trade Review as well as the World Export Development Forum for more informed discussions on these issues.

The challenge of **youth employment** is also one that needs to be addressed in particular in Africa. I would like to draw your attention to the work carried out by ILO in this area in particular as response to the call for action made by the International Labor Conference in 2012.

Mme Chair,
Denmark is about to launch a new Trade Strategy which is also touching upon trade and development. On this last point, Denmark commits to continue its support to developing countries to further their integration in the multilateral trading system and to explore opportunities for synergies between its bilateral and multilateral assistance and to place particular emphasis on the poorer countries, in particular the LDCs, inter alia through the Enhanced Integrated Framework. There is also a particular attention to standards. In view of this, it is our expectation that the Danish collaboration with ITC will continue in the future.

Mme Chair,

Let me join others in thanking the Patricia Francis for the leadership and tireless efforts she has devoted to ITC. Your vision and determination to changing ITC and fully embrace the 2006 Evaluation has allowed ITC to evolve with a revolutionary pace to make it ready to embark on new challenges.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors as you go back to the Caribbean – whether in your capacity as a Grandmother or in any other function that you may wish to take up.

On a personal note, I have been with you since your – and my - first JAG – that took a whole week! It has been a pleasure to follow you in this journey. Reducing the duration of the JAG is itself a demonstration of your quest for efficiency!

Thank you for your attention.