The Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC)
Forty-seventh session  (May 6th and 7th, 2013)
Statement by Japan

Thank you Madame Chair, for giving me the floor.

At the outset, Madame Chair, I would like to join others to congratulate you for your election as a chair of the 47th Joint Advisory Group.

Madame Chair,

Japan shares the view that it is essential for developing countries to build up their export capacities and to be integrated in value chain, in order to enjoy full potential gained through international trade. In this regards, Japan appreciate the ITC’s focus on private sector development, especially its contribution to the capacity building of Small and medium sized enterprises.

We welcome the positive development presented in the 2012 annual report, especially ITC’s activity in Africa region. In Africa, Japan has been contributing to the Ethical Fashion Programme since 2007, which support the job creation and women empowerment in Africa. In 2012, we are pleased to see the further progress in capacity building projects, as well as very successful market development in Japan. We acknowledge that ITC is now extending partnership with large Japanese distributors and expanding its presence in Japan, which lead to the wider acknowledgement of ethical fashion in Japan.

We are also pleased to see that ITC will be hosting official side-event at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), which will be held in June 1st to 3rd in Yokohama, Japan. Celebrating its 20 years anniversary this year, TICAD has evolved into a major and unique global framework for promoting African development and economic growth through private sector development and increasing productive capacity. Main theme of TICAD V is accelerating growth, while ensuring the
quality of the growth at the same time. We believe that showcasing ITC’s result at the TICADV will be a perfect opportunity to emphasize the importance of ITC’s work on private sector development in Africa, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank ITC for its active commitment and support for TICAD process.

Last by not the least, Japan would like to [add our voice to others and] express our sincere appreciation for Executive Director Ms Patria Francis, for your commitment and dedication throughout your leadership in ITC. We believe that your commitment to promote Result Based Management as well as active communication with member states contributed to build trust and confidence between members and ITC. We sincerely hope that the work you have started will be further enhanced by your successor for the years to come.

Thank you, madame chair.