Thank you Mme Chair,

Please accept our congratulations on your appointment as the Chair of the 47th session of the ITC’s Joint Advisory Group.

**Dear Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

First of all I would like to thank all the panelists of today’s session for the opening statements and for the financial and strategic updates related to the ITC’s activities.

I would also like to note high quality of documents presented by the ITC to the JAG’s 47th session.

Today ITC is a key player in the area of technical assistance to the developing countries in their integration to international trade system through building export capacities of SMEs and productive and job creation capacities.

On behalf of the Delegation of Kazakhstan I would like to express support to the ITC activities on implementation of projects in the countries of Central Asia and the CIS, in developing countries, LDCs and LLDCs.
Last year we continued our excellent cooperation with ITC, including successful implementation of the Non-tariff measures survey as part of the joint trade needs assessment project implemented jointly with the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The report is being finalized. We expect to launch the first publication of the report in our capital on the occasion of the VI Astana Economic Forum on 22 May this year.

We would like to emphasize the importance of the follow up on the findings and recommendations of the non-tariff measures survey.

Last year we have also used the ITC’s expertise on developing exports of the countries of the Customs Union of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus. The ITC’s experts conducted a study aimed to support enterprises producing agricultural goods for export to the neighboring markets. Export Guide on EU market requirements for producers of flour and pasta from the Customs Union (Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia) has been published.

Accession to the World Trade Organization by the end of this year is one of the most important strategic tasks for the Government of Kazakhstan. We appreciate training and consultancy services provided by the ITC experts to the representatives of the business community in the area of WTO accession. The first conference which was held last year in Almaty was very successful and attracted
attention of many businessmen. We would like to see the continuation of this activity this year.

We are currently discussing as well ITC’s possible support in the development of the National Export Strategy.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our colleagues from ITC for the professional approach demonstrated in the course of our cooperation, their continued commitment in support of trade development in Kazakhstan and in the region and wish them all the success in implementation of their plans for the year 2013.

Using this opportunity I would like to join previous speakers in thanking Madame Patricia Francis for her excellent leadership of ITC and wish her all the success in her future career.

Thank you for your attention.

Nurzhan Rakhmetov
Third Secretary

Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan