Statement Made by the Delegation of Nepal on 47th JAG Meeting of ITC
06-07 May, 2013

Madame Chair,
Madame Executive Director,
Excellencies, and
Distinguished Delegates

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as the chair of 47th session of Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre. Please be assured of my delegation’s full support.

We also congratulate Madame Executive Director, Patricia Francis and her team for the excellent steering of ITC activities over the years. We wish Madame Francis a very bright post ITC career.

ITC has been playing an important role in the efforts of the least developed countries like Nepal to achieve their goal of poverty reduction by promoting trade sustainability. ITC’s work programmes that are structured around the strategic objectives like building awareness, strengthening trade support institutions and mainstreaming inclusiveness and sustainable development are strong evidences of its continued support to the most vulnerable countries.

We commend ITC’s active participation in the EIF, a multi-stakeholder initiative and the most relevant Aid for Trade framework for LDCs. Its support, in collaboration with other EIF partners, to the LDCs in helping them participate in the programmes related to export development has been instrumental.

The integrated packages of assistance and ITC’s collaboration with other partners, particularly with the agencies of Steering Committee on Tourism for Development that was launched at the fourth conference of the least developed countries in Istanbul (2011), have helped the poor countries address the problems of poverty and unemployment through tourism development. We also appreciate ITC’s strong focus on developing trade intelligence for LDCs, the emphasis on non-tariffs measures as well as the recent endeavor to develop trade in services.

ITC has become a good guide for policy makers, a mediator for exporters and an invaluable database for researchers. Its success in building maps and standards in trade, market access and investment is notable.

Mme. Chair,

ITC has been supporting Nepal to strengthen backward and forward linkages of trade since its inception. Some notable support areas of ITC in Nepal have been with respect to tea, coffee, tourism promotion and other policy sectors. ITC is planning to run, in near future, an EIF Tier-2 project entitled “Pashmina Enhancement & Trade Support (PETS)” for Nepal. We believe that the project’s main purpose of contributing to economic and social development through export growth and market diversification of Chyangra Pashmina (CP) products, manufactured by pashmina exporters in Nepal will be fulfilled. ITC’s success in implementing this project will
definitely help us lower our trade deficit and sustain *Pashmina* industry to reduce rural-urban poverty.

To conclude, my delegation hopes that ITC’s support in the development efforts of the least developed countries like Nepal will further be consolidated and fortified in the years to come. It is our firm belief that ITC’s activities need to further expand towards ensuring the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable model of development thereby focusing on poverty reduction and the empowerment of the disadvantaged groups.

Thank you for your kind attention.