Thank you very much, Madame Chair,

First, I would like to thank Ambassador Pirez Gordillo for his service as President of the 46th Session of the Joint Advisory Group. During 2012 you have shown much involvement with ITC’s work. Your efforts there are very much appreciated.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Pierce (Karen) with her appointment as the Chair of the 47th Session of the Joint Advisory Group. Ambassador Pierce, you can count on our full support.

Ladies and gentlemen:
Overall, the Netherlands is content with ITC’s programming in 2012. Trade and economic development remains the best way to tackle poverty. We therefore will continue to support ITC’s corporate objectives with regard to trade intelligence, capacity building and sustainable and inclusive trade.

ITC communicates its results in the Annual Report on page 16 and 17 on the level of output. Furthermore, the report contains many case studies. We hope that in the future ITC also takes the next step in reporting towards consolidated outcome or impact data.

We have confidence that ITC is setting the norm for the implementation of Results-based management. Project design will be more aligned with corporate objectives and ITC’s indicators of achievement. I had a look at the beta version of the development results website. This site already gives an insight in ITC’s results and will be further improved. We do realize that transparency
could also make ITC vulnerable, but are confident that transparency convinces when in doubt.

Ladies and gentlemen:

The Netherlands is donor coordinator of ITC and on behalf of the donors I would like to thank Patricia Francis for her drive, outspokennes and dedication with regard to ITC. We will miss that and sincerely hope that other public organisations might benefit from Patricia’s qualities and competences in the time to come.

A Trade and Development Minister once compared development cooperation with music. First, we recorded music onto cassette tapes. Then recordable CDs took over. And now – in turn – recordable CDs are on the decline.
The progress of the Aid for Trade agenda, which underpins ITCs activities, reminds me also of music. The essence is that Aid for Trade constantly needs revision to ever changing circumstances.

On behalf of the Netherlands I would like to state that Patricia Francis is not a person who stubbornly clings to cassette tapes. No, she has an assertive eye for the external environment.

In 2006 she embarked with ITC on an ambitious change process:

- Many countries were not benefitting from globalization,
- the so called “Danish Report”, recommended more affiliation of ITC’s work with the MDGs and
- internally, “key management and institutional reforms” were necessary.

With great enthusiasm Patricia Francis picked up these challenges. She contributed greatly to change in and around ITC.

As a result, today her agency
• is in the center of private sector development,
• introduces RBM,
• is supporting women who want to trade and
• went through many management and institutional reforms.

On behalf of the Netherlands I would like to thank Patricia for this.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Of course, hanging on to tapes is nostalgic, quirky and endearing, but it is not the right thing when stimulating development.

Patricia’s achievements at ITC should thus not lead to complacency. It is important to constantly calibrate the activities of the organization to reality and needs. The upcoming evaluation will surely contribute to this.

Patricia, I thank you for your leadership and wish you all the best.
Thank you for your attention.