Statement by Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands, HE Moses K. Mose at the 47th Joint Advisory Group Meeting, 6th and 7th May 2013, Palais de Nation. Rm. XVIII

Madam Chair,

Allow me at the outset to join others in congratulating you for taking on the chairing of this meeting. I would like to thank your predecessor Ambassador Gordilo of Uruguay for the excellent work in the past year. My special thanks goes to Patricia Francis for her excellent leadership of the Organisation in the last seven years. Her professionalism and dedication in ensuring the organisation remains effective and relevant must be commended. I take this opportunity to wish her all the best in her future endeavor.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ITC Secretariat for the report they presented on their 2012 annual report. I take particular note of their activities in product development and identification of markets, their programme on empowering women entrepreneurship in the various parts of the world.

Madam Chair,

In the 46th JAG last year, I implored the ITC to increase their visibility by greater involvement and extension of their activities in my part of the world in the Pacific and in particular my country the Solomon Islands. As you will appreciate because of our peculiarities of islandness, smallness and isolation this present real and huge challenges. Nevertheless, I am encouraged that with the help of extra budgetary assistance provided by the Government of Australia in this year’s work programme, efforts are now underway in the ITC to extend their activities to the Pacific. I encourage the ITC to continue to work closely with the Pacific region in this endeavor to enable the small island countries of the Pacific to participate in the international trade in particular in the recent global efforts in encouraging countries in participating in global value chains. In this connection, I would encourage the ITC to continue their collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in implementing the initiatives and project ideas identified for this financial year.

In conclusion, as the only Forum Island country of the Pacific based in Geneva, I offer my Missions support in ensuring that ITC can contribute positively, challenging though this may be, to the trade development needs of Solomon Islands and indeed the Islands of the Pacific.

Thank you