

Canada Statement for JAG Meeting
June 26, 2015

Chair,

Canada is pleased attend this meeting of the JAG. The ITC is an important partner in Canada's efforts to harness trade to support inclusive growth.

As noted in the joint donor statement, the ITC has undergone two major evaluations over the last years, the recommendations of which the ITC is implementing to improve its operations and impact. Canada believes that proper implementation of these recommendations will be key to the ITC's future. We appreciate that the ITC agreed with the recommendations and set out actions to implement them. We are encouraged by the steps that ITC has taken thus far in some areas, but follow-through over the coming months will be important for their full realization.

For instance, we are encouraged that ITC has taken steps to adopt a programmatic approach that will ensure better prioritization, fewer 'shorter-term, one-off projects', and ultimately, greater impact. Canada would argue that this strategic approach not only builds on ITC's comparative advantage, but also ensures value for money according to the resources accessible to ITC. We look forward to learning more about the development of relevant programmes according to the six focus areas. And, we look forward to further discussion on ITC's Strategic Indicators and corporate results framework.

We look forward to hearing about progress on several other the tools ITC plans to use to be more strategic, better prioritized, more impact-driven, and adopt a more coherent programmatic approach.

Specifically, in relation to ITC's project cycle management, as indicated by ITC the New Project Portal is due to launch end of July 2015. We are interested in how the updated version of the Project Portal will assist in better management reporting.

In relation to improving ITC's information management, we look forward to the new Client Relationship Management (CRM) system, to be rolled out in September 2015, and hearing the results of its implementation.

We also echo the point made in the Common Donor Statement that we look forward to learn more about the projects and activities that will be emphasized and those that will be phased out as a result of the implementation of its Strategic Plan.

Finally, Canada reiterates a statement we made at the informal JAG meeting in January: It is essential for ITC to explore new partnering opportunities with the private sector if it wishes to carry out its mission effectively and ensure its financial viability. We are pleased to see that the ITC Strategic Plan 2015-2017 highlights the importance of partnering with key stakeholders, such as the private sector, to jointly contribute to an improved environment for trade. However, we await more information on a strategic approach to partnership to deliver more *trade impact for good*.

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The ITC should be proactive in reporting on its progress on these and other actions identified in its management response to the evaluation. The ITC should not wait until next year's annual report and JAG meeting to update its partners but use the Consultative Committee, and otherwise offer updates on progress made.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the ITC, other donor countries and with ITC partner countries to continue to enable the organization to create impact on the ground and fulfill its mandate while ensuring value for money.