



**Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations  
And other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Check against delivery**

**Statement by H.E.**

**Ambassador Dr. Walid M. Abdelnasser**

**Permanent Representative of the Arab  
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other International Organisations in Geneva**

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**Mrs. Chair,**

At the outset, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair Ambassador Karen PIERCE for her capable chairmanship of the JAG for the last year and wish her all the best for her future endeavors, and also, welcome the new Chair Ambassador Miriam Saleh.

Let me also express our thanks to the ITC and the WTO as well as UNCTAD for their longstanding support to Egypt, which includes providing technical assistance and enhancing cooperation with a special focus on trade promotion and export-led institutional support.

**Mrs. Chair,**

The Egyptians declared it clear twice on the January 25<sup>th</sup> 2011 and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 that they claim for their rights to freedom, social justice and dignity. Now is the time to help realize these aspirations through economic development, which reserves the state's resources, gives priority to the needs of citizens, helps realize aspired social justice, maintains economic balance and stability and secure the rights of future generations.

The Egyptians charted a clear Roadmap on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 to ensure the achievement of the democratic values long waited by the people. We have been moving along according to the political road map, by adopting a new constitution in January 2014, and by electing a new president who sworn in last Sunday after free and fair elections that were observed by various international bodies including an EU election observation mission. The next stage will be holding parliamentary elections in the coming few months. This road map is based on building democratic institutions as well as fulfilling the aims and inspirations of the Egyptian people.

Parallel to the Democracy Protection Program, it is our belief that real social justice cannot be simply realized by the provision of benefits and grants to less privileged citizens, but can only be realized by forming well balanced economic relations, ensuring social protection and giving each person the opportunity to prosper, in a manner that exhibits sustainability, transparency and justice.

The new Constitution clearly states in Article 27 that *“the economic system shall adhere to transparency and good governance standards; enhance pillars of competitiveness, encourage investment, ensure balanced geographical, sectoral and environmental growth, prohibit restrictive business practices, maintain financial and trade balances and a fair tax system,*



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*streamlining market mechanisms, guaranteeing the various types of ownership and striking a balance between the interests of various stakeholders preserving the rights of workers and protecting consumers”*

There is a need to create a new mainstream for society, a mainstream conscious of the necessity to encourage investments, prioritize productivity, and raise the welfare standards of the people and for the people, ensuring that all Egyptians benefit the rewards of growth and prosperity.

We believe that we will overcome our challenges by generating more job opportunities, and encouraging increased investments in education and capacity building, while addressing horizontal issues including the poverty alleviation among youth and women, as well as the gender inequalities.

**Mrs. Chair,**

Having said that, it is quite essential to make reference to a Programme, that has been implemented by the ITC, and came to an end last year: ‘Enhancing Arab Capacity for Trade - EnACT’; this Programme aimed at reinforcing trade policy, trade promotion and competitiveness in five Arab countries including Egypt.

EnACT had a particular area of focus to streamline the role of women and the youth in export related activities through strengthening capacity building, allowing for export related employment creation, in particular enabling women and youth to be more equipped to secure and sustain their jobs in the export sector.

Egypt has also benefited from the Non-Tariff Measures Survey, which results led to better inform stakeholders - from both Business and Government - on trade and industrial policy, and on means to remove obstacles to trade.

Therefore, it is imperative to highlight the outcome such programmes bring to Egypt, and notwithstanding the current Aid for Trade Initiative for Arab States which also includes important activities undertaken by the ITC, I would like to seize this opportunity to express our strong willingness for the ITC to pursue more programs on a regional basis - similar to EnAct which as mentioned, has come to an end - or on a bilateral basis dedicated to Egypt, this is whilst taking into consideration the historical phase the Arab World is currently witnessing, and the challenges the “Arab Spring countries” are facing with the increased necessity to stimulate their economies and create jobs for millions of unemployed and new entrants in the job market.



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Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Canada for its generous financial support to the EnACT Programme, and we would be further encouraging them to continue their support for technical assistance in Egypt in the very near future.

And last but not least, special thanks and appreciation go to the outstanding work and efforts of the ITC team under the proficient and talented leadership of their Executive Director Ms. Arancha González.

**Thank you.**