STATEMENT DELIVERED BY ZIMBABWE AT THE INFORMAL JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING OF 26 JANUARY 2015: WTO ROOM W.

REMARKS ON ITC’S EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.

THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR

OUR DELEGATION IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ITC’S MANAGEMENT RESPONSE, AND IN LINE WITH THIS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW POINTS:

1. ITC HAS DEMONSTRATED STRENGTH AND CAPACITY TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL SERVICES THAT HAVE IMPACTED POSITIVELY ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES’ ECONOMIES.

2. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT WE ARE RECEIVING FROM THE ITC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HER TEAM, AND WE GREATLY APPRECIATE SUPPORT FROM DONORS ESPECIALLY, THE EU WHICH PROVIDED FUNDING FOR THE TRADE AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THAT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN ZIMBABWE THROUGH ITC. WE ARE ANTICIPATING THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN IMPROVING OUR ECONOMY’S COMPETITIVENESS.

3. WE HOWEVER WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL TO DONOR PARTNERS TO PROVIDE LONG TERM AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR EFFECTIVE AID FOR TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS REGARD, DONOR SUPPORT SHOULD ALSO COVER DEMAND DRIVEN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE COMPLIMENTARY TO THE PROGRAMS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION.

4. WE ARE GLAD THAT ITC ADOPTED THE RESULT BASED MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND HOPE THAT THIS WILL STRENGTHEN ITC’S ACCOUNTABILITY, RESULT ORIENTATION, AND TRANSPARENCY.
5. WE WELCOME RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONVENING SMALL INFORMAL “FRIENDS OF CHAIRS” AS THIS WILL FACILITATE ENGAGEMENT WITH MISSIONS IN GENEVA AND CAPITALS, AS WELL AS IMPROVE PUBLICITY OF ITC PROGRAMS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE THE “ITC OPEN DAY” AS A REGULAR EVENT.

6. OUR DELEGATION COMMITTS ITSELF TO PLAYING A SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN ENSURING THAT ITC SUCCESSFULLY FULFILS ITS MANDATE.