KEYNOTE SUMMARY

SESSION DATE: 25 September 2017

SPEAKERS:

Welcome remarks: Arancha González, Executive Director, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Keynote: Gilbert F. Houngbo, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

NOTES FROM EACH SPEAKER:

Arancha González, ITC

- SDG is the compass which guides our work in the space of sustainable trade.
- Sustainability Map helps to better link producers and consumers and enables parties along the value chain to make more sustainable decisions.
- Consumers want to know products come from and how they are produced. Who has been involved in the products or the services? This is why companies need to place the concept of sustainable consumption and production at the top of their agenda. It matters to companies because it matters more and more to consumers.
- ITC wants to be sure that it strengthens partnerships with other members of the UN family. Leaving behind us this silo mentality that won’t allow us to reach our collective goal.
- ITC be building partnerships in LDCs, developing countries, and with others in the UN family, such as IFAD.

Gilbert F. Houngbo, IFAD

- Partnerships should also aim to help rural farmers grow more and connect to markets. It requires multi-sectoral coordinated action.
- Small farmers often go hungry themselves. ¾ of world’s poorest and hungry live in rural area. They depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and their countries depend on them for national food system
- If we want to bring about inclusive and sustainable development of smallholders, each of these actors needs to be coordinators; hence, partnerships are integral to the process of sustainable and inclusive rural transformation.
- The cost of achieving SDGs 1 and 2 has been estimated to an additional 265 billion per year between now and 2030. Clearly, we must not only increase our individual efforts, but we must work together to coordinate the delivery of resources, knowledge, and policies that must be part of a multi-pronged effort.
- Key to achieving SDGs 1 and 2 is to de-risk investment in rural areas.
- There is a need to help farmers transition from survival mode to seeing their farms as commercial entities.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Recalling that 2.5 billion people depend on small farms and these farms are responsible for up to 80% of production in sub-Saharan Africa and many parts of Asia. If we care about poverty, hunger, and building sustainable work, we have to care also about rural areas.