Statement of Egypt

ITC Joint Advisory Group Programme

30 June – 1 July 2011

Geneva
Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam Deputy Executive Director of ITC
H.E. Ambassador Hisham Badr, the Chair of ITC Joint Advisory Group meeting,

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express our thanks to ITC and WTO as well as UNCTAD for their long standing support to Egypt for providing technical assistance and enhancing cooperation activities in the field of trade promotion.

In this respect, I would like to affirm that Egypt supports the on-going programme “Enhancing Arab Capacity for Trade” (Enact), for the next two years which focuses on the three following pillars:

- Strengthening the international competitiveness of enterprises, in particular SMEs,
- Developing the capacity of trade for service providers to support business,
- Supporting policy makers in integrating the business sector into the global economy.

Thanks should also be given to the Canadian Government for its donation to finance Enact program, and for the ITC-Enact conducting team for their efforts to achieve this program successfully, and in particular for their prompt response to assure its quick and effective implementation after the 25th January revolution in Egypt.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We should also give tribute to the 25th of January Revolution in Egypt and the great changes in the Arab world, during the last six months, where our revolution paved the way for a new socio-economic and political paradigm in Egypt. We remain resolved to maintain the fundamentals of a free and fair open economy, and intend to re-assert our competitive and comparable advantage.

Since our revolution, ITC has intensified its activities in Egypt which are:
• A workshop on Developing a Unique selling point in African markets for Engineering Council and White Goods sector (35 companies)
• A workshop on Design and Identity for Jewelry entrepreneurs (20 companies)
• A workshop on COMESA Agreements (23 companies)
• A workshop on Marketing and Branding (22 companies)
• Non Tariff Measures survey in Egypt
• Diagnostic of Egypt's Export Potential

Besides, the ITC has organized an important panel Discussion, in Geneva, on: "The Arab Spring: Developmental and Economic Impacts and Implications for Technical Assistance"

The optimization of the benefits of such programmes requires more financial contributions from donors, and the establishment of a joint advisory council comprising: ITC, all donors' representatives and Egyptian bodies supporting SMEs, with the objective of coordinating their activities in order to make best allocation of donors' resources.

We are looking forward to continue working together to bring those foreshed fruitful outcomes.

Thank you.