ETHIOPIA

At the outset, my delegation would like to echo the message of condolence to Madam Patricia Francis and her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election to chair the 45\textsuperscript{th} Session of JAG. Allow me to thank ITC for the excellent reports. As one of the LDCs and acceding countries to WTO, Ethiopia has been benefiting from the trade-related assistance of ITC. With ITC’s support, seven large modern coffee quality laboratories were set-up in coffee-producing areas in Ethiopia. The laboratories have contributed to enhance the quality of coffee.

ITC is also supporting Ethiopia in its endeavour to join the WTO. I would like to mention that ITC has been organising important workshops that raise the awareness of the private sector on WTO issues.

As Mr. Lamy mentioned it in his speech, Ethiopia is one of the first countries to benefit from ITC’s assistance in tourism sector. We hope that this project will enable Ethiopia to further exploit its tourism sector for sustainable and inclusive development.

As expansion of trade is at the centre of government development strategy, we would like to see the intensification of activities of ITC in Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Government will continue to work with ITC with the purpose of addressing our trade-related challenges through tailor-made technical assistance programmes.

Let me conclude by expressing our profound gratitude for ITC and our partners.

Thank you.