Statement by Finland, ITC JAG 2011:

Discussion 30.6.2011

- Thank you Mr. Chairman and congratulations for your appointment. First of all, we would like to thank the leadership and entire staff of the ITC for their successful work this year. We would also like to extend our most sincere condolences to Ms. Patricia Francis in this difficult moment.

- ITC is a key partner to Finland in Aid for Trade. This is reflected in our increased and continued support to ITC. We value ITC’s work particularly in helping the private sector in developing and transition economies to benefit from global trade opportunities. We appreciate ITC’s hands-on, pragmatic and business-like approach. We believe that ITC is doing a good job in integrating the principles of sustainable development into its work. Finland is pleased to note that the ITC has strong programmes to promote women in business as well as environmentally sustainable business.

- We are pleased to see that our work with the ITC in areas such as promoting women in business, the use of information and communication technologies to enhance export competitiveness, access to trade finance, and south-south trade is making good progress. We are looking forward to for example the new pineapple value chain project in West Africa.

- We are also pleased to note that ITC has increased cooperation with partners at the country level. We have received positive feedback from our field offices, for example in Zambia, that ITC is linking up well with ongoing private sector development programmes at the country level. As a small agency with a broad client base, it is critical that ITC works in close collaboration with relevant partners both at the national and international level.

- ITC has made important improvements in reporting and introducing results based management, but also further work remains to be done. We are pleased to hear that this has been recognized and there are clear plans to move forward. The trend in development cooperation in general and in Aid for Trade in particular, is to “show results”. We heard earlier today that this is also the main theme of this year’s Global Aid
for Trade Review to be celebrated in just a few weeks time. The point of demonstrating and achieving impact cannot be overemphasized, particularly in an environment of scarce resources and competing needs and priorities.

- Thank you Mr Chairman

Announcement of trust fund contributions to ITC for 2010-2011

- Mr. Chairman, as we stated yesterday, ITC is one of the most important multilateral partners for Finland in the area of trade and development and Aid for Trade. Finland has in recent years increased its voluntary contribution to ITC as part of its overall Aid for Trade support. In 2010 and 2011 we both increased our support to ITC and moved from annual commitments to bi-annual commitments. We hope that this change facilitates ITCs work.

- Finland’s overall support to ITC in 2010 and 2011 is EUR 3.4 million, of which 1.8 million is for 2011. The money should be already on its way to ITC’s account. We are also providing ITC with two additional JPOs in 2011. Unfortunately we are not in a position to make statements about Finland’s support to ITC in 2012 and 2013 at this stage, particularly as we have a new Government sworn in just about a week ago. However, we look forward to continuing our partnership with ITC in the coming years and hope to be able to at least maintain the current level of funding also in the coming years.

- Thank you Mr Chairman