Mr. Chair,

- Germany understands development cooperation as enabling people to shape their own lives and to take responsibility for their own decisions, without suffering material hardship under the stewardship of the Millenium Development Goals.

- To this end, the active participation and support of all citizens – including civil society and the private sector – is essential. This is why ITC’s unique niche of working with the private sector is so important. ITC serves as a conduit between broader development cooperation and the private sector, encouraging the private sector to incorporate principles of sustainable development as well as feeding its perspective into global processes.

- The upcoming Global Review on Aid for Trade is a case in point. ITC, through its case stories, but also through its contributions in the plenary, has given the private sector a voice in the discussions and thus has enriched the debates.
Mr. Chair, this past year has been shaped by the question of how we can measure the impact and therefore success of our work. This does not only affect ITC, but cuts across all our work in Aid for Trade. It is no easy task, since attribution is a serious challenge in this area. The steps between input and impact, in particular related to poverty reduction, are many and showing a meaningful relationship between the two is a challenging task.

However, it is extremely important that we continue and intensify our efforts in this regard. We are pleased that ITC has taken and continues to take steps in the right direction, i.a. through the development of a corporate-level logframe as well as standardised indicators.

German Development Cooperation has a long-standing experience in developing and working with poverty-related indicators. ITC has drawn on this experience in the past and we are happy to continue and deepen our cooperation in this regard.

Mr. Chair, let me conclude by announcing a joint Side-Event by Switzerland, Germany and ITC on voluntary standards at the Global Review. This is a topic that is very close to our hearts and we are happy to be able to present the fruits of our long-standing cooperation to participants of the Global Review. Invitations to the Side Event will be circulated shortly.

Thank you very much for your attention.