STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR BOZKURT ARAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO WTO
45th SESSION OF THE
ITC JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
(30 JUNE 2011)

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Deputy Executive Director,
Madame Deputy Director-General,
Dear Colleagues,

Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Badr,

At outset let me congratulate you on your appointment as the Chairman of the 45th Session of the Joint Advisory Group. I assure you of my Delegation's support to bring this Session to a success under your able guidance.

I wish to thank Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi and Director-General of the WTO, Mr. Pascal Lamy for their introductory remarks. I also wish to extend my gratitude to Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Executive Director, for his very edifying and descriptive statements.

Mr. Chairman,

Although there are some positive signs of global economic recovery, the repercussions of economic and financial crisis are still affecting the multilateral trading system. Therefore, ITC and its assistance towards developing countries in their integration to the multilateral trading system and through its commitment to building sustainable export for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) have a crucial role in the aftermath of these crises. In this respect, we appreciate the role of ITC and its
commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and its focus on addressing the needs of LDCs in building productive capacity and reach their export potential.

I commend ITC leadership and staff for their efforts in delivering demand-driven and high-quality programmes and for preparing the Annual Report on the activities of ITC in 2010.

I studied the Annual Report with keen interest and benefited from it a lot. First thing I want to say that it is a well prepared document. Let me highlight 6 of my observations regarding the report:

-The focus on delivery provides opportunity to stakeholders to make an overall assessment of the programmes of ITC.

-In the report, we are pleased to note that according the 4th annual client survey, more than 70% of respondents reported the quality of ITC services had improved in the last three years. We hope that the level of satisfaction of enterprises with ITC work, which is 57%, will increase in the future.

-In addition, it is noteworthy that in the course of project cycle, the proportion of the portfolio in the implementation phase has grown to 67% in 2010. We hope that this positive trend in the implementation phase would generate significant outcomes in due time and the same rate is upheld in years to come.

-In this regard, we believe that the introduction of results-based management (RBM) and Project Quality Assurance Group will further contribute to the performance of ITC in project planning and implementing. We will encourage ITC to continue with this approach.

-We believe that the larger-scale regional programmes could serve as a solution for the sustainable export development especially in promoting South to South cooperation. In this regard we encourage ITC to be more focused on these sort of programmes.
-We noted with interest the projects of ITC related to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing Countries (SIDs) and sub-Saharan Africa in the report. In this regard, we are pleased to note that the target set as %50 was exceeded substantially.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to underline the importance of LDCs in the work of ITC. Turkey is committed for the LDC issues. Trade is an important tool in their economic development, job creation and integration into the global market. We appreciate ITC’s increasing efforts in building productive and export capacities of LDCs. We encourage ITC to further its work on LDCs through more diversified projects which encompass various areas central to LDCs’ development. We also expect to have more detailed information on the activities regarding LDCs in future reports.

It is important to keep the momentum of Aid for Trade, including the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). As an emerging development partner of LDCs and a donor of the EIF, Turkey believes that ITC’s active engagement with the EIF is crucial. We support ITC, which is considered to be “100% Aid for Trade institution”, in its efforts to jointly implement Aid for Trade with WTO and UNCTAD. We encourage on ITC to be even more vigilant in this area.

We will dwell on the the UN LDC IV Conference, held on 9-13 May 2011 in İstanbul, in a special panel tomorrow in which I will make a statement as well. On this occasion, let me extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to ITC for organizing the 12th World Export Development Forum in the context of İstanbul Conference on tourism. Our Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister His Excellency Ali Babacan made a statement in the plenary session of this important event.

This Forum organized by ITC has been an important achievement and provided a useful platform for exploring new ways of assisting LDCs in their path to sustainable development and poverty reduction, with particular focus on the significant role of tourism. In this respect, we would be pleased to see ITC concentrating more on services
and tourism sector in the LDCs in 2011. We are ready to share our tourism-led economic growth experience in that process as an illustrative example of good practice.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express that our country is more than ready to cooperate with ITC in more future projects related to trade and development. We look forward to continued discussions on the programmes of ITC.

Thank you.
STATEMENT BY
H.E. BOZKURT ARAN, AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE WTO

ITC
JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) MEETING
(1 July 2011)

Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here midst you this afternoon. I am also very pleased that ITC Joint Advisory Group has taken LDC follow-up as an agenda item for this meeting.

Prior to the UN LDC 4 Conference, we had the opportunity to make substantive exchanges regarding the preparatory process. Now that the Conference is over, implementation of Istanbul Programme of Action and the follow-up of this implementation emerge as the challenging tasks awaiting before us. To achieve these goals, this sort of meetings as post-Conference events help us exchange views on how to move forward and to determine next steps to be taken in the next decade for LDCs. Therefore, I convey our appreciation to Ms. Patricia Francis and to her team for their continuing efforts for LDCs in the post-Conference period.

We believe that LDC 4 has been a successful event, thanks to the constructive approach of all Member States throughout negotiations, and thanks to the dedicated efforts of all bodies in United Nations system, and also thanks to the contribution by international institutions and civil society organizations.

There was a great turnout to the Conference from international community. 36 Heads of State, 96 Ministers, 66 heads of international organizations and almost 9.000 registered participants attended the Istanbul Conference. Geneva-based international organizations such as
UNCTAD, ITC, WTO and WIPO have actively participated in LDC 4 and organized important side-events within the context of the Conference.

ITC made distinctive contribution among international organizations. Within the context of the Conference, ITC has organized a very extensive two-day Forum on world export development. This Forum has yielded four pilot projects regarding women vendors, farmers, micro-artisans and cultural heritage as a part of sustainable tourism. I am glad to see these projects as ITC’s deliverables for LDCs. Here I want to note that H.E. Ali Babacan, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, addressed at the opening session of the 12th World Export Development Forum. He in his speech has touched upon the important role and great potential of tourism as a leading tool for job creation, employment and poverty reduction in LDCs. Minister Babacan has also provided information on Turkey’s experience in tourism sector as an example of good practice and success story.

Dear Colleagues,

We all recall that Member States have carried out arduous negotiations for the outcome document of the Conference. There were times that the discussions seemed to have stuck and come to a deadlock. In the end, the Programme of Action has been given finalized and given its final shape during the Conference. It is adopted in United Nations General Assembly with on 17 June.

The Conference was set with the goals to come out with a substantive programme of Action, which would guide the international community to make a real change in the daily lives of almost 900 hundred million people living in LDCs. With this goal in mind, emphasis was made to ambitious yet realistic targets and concrete commitments to be put in the outcome document. I think now we have these tangible and implementable goals.

Looking at the Programme of Action, one can see these targets very clearly. Let me enumerate some of them as;

- providing timely implementation of DFQF market access for all LDCs in all products
- doubling the share of LDCs’ exports in the international trade, that is, to increase it from around 1.08% to more than 2%,
- enabling halve the number of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020.
- achieving 7% annual GDP growth in LDCs
- accelerating the accession processes of LDCs to the WTO
- establishing a Science, Technology and Innovation Center, which would also serve as a technology bank for LDCs

To achieve these goals,
- a parliamentarian track
- a private sector track, and
- a civil society track

for the first time has been included in the Conference programme, along with the intergovernmental track. Moreover, with the personal initiative of Turkish Foreign Minister, an Intellectuals Forum has been organized during the Conference.

Among these novelties, the inclusion of parliamentarian track to the Conference is a significant step for the follow-up and monitoring of the outcomes of the Conference. In line with this emphasis on parliaments, establishment of an effective monitoring mechanism for implementation is also highlighted in Istanbul.

As known, the targets set in the 3rd LDC Conference in Brussels in 2001 have yet to be achieved. There may be a great many underlying reasons for not achieving the goals set in Brussels. One of them, which I think is one of the most important ones, is the inefficient review and monitoring. Therefore, the special emphasis on monitoring the implementation of the commitments in the Istanbul Programme of Action becomes more important.

Taking the necessity for such a mechanism into account, Turkey decided to allocate 5 million Dollars for monitoring Istanbul Programme of Action. Turkey suggests having a mid-term review in 2015 for the implementation of the Programme of Action. H.E. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Turkish Foreign Minister has announced Turkey’s willingness to host this review practice in Istanbul.

I would also be pleased to share “Turkey’s economic and technical cooperation package for LDCs” with you. This two-page package is made public personally by our Prime Minister during the Conference. To enumerate some outstanding parts of this package;
Turkey will allocate 200 million Dollars for LDCs starting from 2012. This budget will be used for technical cooperation programmes. As I have mentioned, 5 million of this budget will be disbursed for the review and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

For post-graduate studies in the fields of agriculture, engineering and medicine, 1,000 scholarships will be allocated for LDCs over the next 10 years.

Another point is that Turkey will host a Science, Technology and Innovation Center, which will also serve as a technology bank thereby contribute to the capacity-building of LDCs in technology.

Furthermore, taking the centrality of agriculture in LDCs, Turkey is also prepared to host an International Agriculture Center dedicated to LDCs. This initiative will be materialized in partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations World Food Programme and UNCTAD.

Dear Colleagues,

To create a success story for LDCs in next ten years, we have the guidelines and the road map in hand. We also have the political support, which is manifested in Istanbul. What we need is dedicated international cooperation which is the way to make the targets in Istanbul Programme of Action to come true. A well-functioning monitoring and follow-up in this process is an indispensable part of our work. Then İstanbul will be remembered as the city where the vicious circle of the misfortune of almost 900 million people living in LDCs has been reversed.

Thank you.