Statement by Mr. Esmond Reid
Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica
ITC Joint Advisory Group Meeting
WTO Headquarters, 30 June 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I would first like to warmly congratulate you on your appointment to chair this 45th Session of the JAG. My delegation would also wish to join previous speakers in extending deepest condolences to Mrs. Pat Francis, Executive Director of the ITC, her family and the entire ITC team at this time of bereavement. Her loss is particularly poignant for my delegation as she is a fellow countrywoman. We therefore pray that she will find healing and comfort in the days and weeks ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to commend the ITC for its significant contribution to trade capacity building and productive enterprise in developing countries and Small Vulnerable Economies such as Jamaica. I also wish to thank the ITC team for sharing with us this afternoon, aspects of the organization’s work programme which clearly illustrate that it is indeed a force for good in international trade.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica has had a long and rewarding relationship with the ITC. We have benefited from significant support in private sector development, entrepreneurship and in the provision of technical assistance and information to a range of domestic stakeholders, which have enhanced their appreciation of the opportunities and challenges of international trade. We also value the results-based management approach of the ITC towards project delivery. This has been reflected in the quality and diversity of the cooperation programmes that are being undertaken in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Jamaica is particularly grateful to the ITC for its contribution to the development of our National Export Strategy which is guiding our efforts to achieve sustainable growth and development through enhanced trade.

The ITC has also played a significant role in our Agriculture and Agri-business sectors. We therefore welcome the partnerships that the ITC has forged with other international agencies engaged in agricultural cooperation and development. In this regard, we fully support the initiatives that have been undertaken with the ACP Secretariat, the European Commission, UNCTAD and other entities that are involved in the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme.
We also place great emphasis on the work of the ITC in supporting the development of the Creative Industries Sector in Jamaica and the CARIFORUM region as a whole. This is one activity which will build capacity and strengthen the development of the Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises in the Caribbean.

In closing, let me reiterate that the ITC is indispensable to the long term trade capacity building outlook for Jamaica and other SVEs. I therefore encourage all relevant stakeholders to seek to expand their existing levels of support for the work of the ITC, particularly in relation to its joint activities with the WTO and other agencies that are involved in international trade.

Thank You.

Permanent Mission of Jamaica
July 2011