

**Algeria's statement before the 56th Session of the Joint Advisory Group
of the International Trade Centre
Geneva, 13th September 2022**

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor.

First of all, let me join others in congratulating you upon your election to steer the work of the 56th session of the Joint Advisory Group.

I would like also to commend the Chair of the 55th session, Ambassador Bekkers of the Netherlands, for the work he carried out during the past session.

This meeting provides an important opportunity to look at the work of the ITC over the past year and to set the path for upcoming period.

Madam Chair,

ITC has two parents, WTO and UNCTAD, and today is the annual rendezvous for the parents to take stock of the ITC work, to see how studious their child has been at school over the past year and to what extent, he or she, has grown.

More seriously, the ITC is a delivery body, and so every year, this meeting serves to look at the impact of the ITC on the ground.

Thanks the ITC for the substantive annual report. Each project contained therein is without doubt making significant differences on people lives, as some ITC project stakeholders have testified this morning.

All together, the projects supported by ITC show us the power of trade to create jobs and drive growth. They remind us the centrality of the capacity-building work in ensuring that everyone can benefit from trade.

The ITC's essential mission is to help smaller companies from developing countries to join trade flows. Progress in this direction means progress towards achieving the SDGs and, in doing so, to leave none behind.

With this in mind, there are a number of areas where ITC can work to achieve even more in the years to come.

Algeria hopes that the new Strategic plan 2022-2025 will push ITC's business model towards creating even more competitive MSMEs, stronger business ecosystems, better regulatory environments and more relevant global public goods. We hope it will also create a sharper ITC that focus on maximizing the contribution of MSME competitiveness and trade to the achievement of the SDGs.

Another front where ITC should continue its good work is its support to the African economic integration, such as the “The One Trade Africa initiative”, launched to help MSMEs take advantage of business opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Moreover, ITC is invited to continue its work with States seeking assistance towards WTO accession. I seize the opportunity of this meeting, being under the roof of the WTO, to say that it is unfortunate that the issue of countries in accession is still being on the WTO agenda, in 2022, while every country, particularly developing ones, should be member of the WTO, enjoying the same rights as the current WTO members and benefit from global trade without having to struggle through the labyrinth of accession.

Madam Chair,

An area where ITC is invited to invest in is how to assist developing countries through projects helping to avoid or to get out the middle income trap.

In conclusion, with huge development challenges before us and bearing in mind that the world is not on track to meet the SDGs by 2030, ITC is therefore expected to do even more than before, in a more complex global context. And needless to say that, like other countries, Algeria looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the ITC and its Executive Director in the future.

I thank you.