

**STATEMENT BY BOTSWANA**  
**AT THE**  
**56<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) OF THE**  
**INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) 13TH SEPTEMBER 2022 IN**  
**ROOM S1 AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION FROM 10:00**

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**Madam Chair,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

1. The Botswana delegation wishes to congratulate you Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady on your appointment as the chair of the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the JAG and we also thank the outgoing chair, Ambassador Paul Berkers for your stewardship in chairing the the 55<sup>th</sup> JAG.
  
2. The Botswana delegation takes this opportunity to thank the Executive Director and the ITC team for the report. We wish to express our gratitude for the cooperation between Botswana and ITC that has spanned for several years, in the areas including export strategy formulation, trade flow analysis and private sector development.
  
3. Botswana and ITC also have a long standing, solid collaboration on trade and gender. At national level, recent notable projects that ITC is collaborating with Botswana include, among others, women and Youth Entrepreneurship Project and the (planned) establishment of the She Trades Hub.

4. Botswana is in the process of developing a digital platform, the Digital Business Package (DBP) for Women Entrepreneurs. DBP aims to solve challenges faced by the informal sector particularly given that they were the most hard hit by the impact of the COVID-19 global health pandemic.
5. This sector is, to a great extent, characterized by women entrepreneurs whom by default are marginalized compared to their male counterparts.
6. Furthermore, there are ongoing consultations between the Government of Botswana and the ITC for the design of a new project focusing on:
  - Designing a national trade and investment export strategy
  - Accelerating the growth of women and youth led SMEs
  - Strengthening the capacity of the private sector in e-commerce
  - Building up standards compliance and fast-tracking adoption of voluntary sustainability standards
7. Botswana also co-chairs the ITC Trade Impact Group which has recently championed a new work programme, with more focus on public-private sector partnerships.
8. Botswana looks forward to working with development partners and ITC in realizing the above-mentioned new initiatives. Finally, we

thank all development partners for their support of the work of ITC & urge them to continue to do so, in order to empower women and youth entrepreneurs in particular.

9. I thank you.