

**Statement to be delivered on behalf of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Eswatini**

**The ITC Joint Advisory Group (JAG)**

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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- Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlement. I am making this statement on behalf of His Excellency Ambassador Vuyile Dlamini who unfortunately is not able to participate in this meeting due to other pressing commitments
  - H.E. Mr. Paul Bekkers, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
  - H.E. Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office at Geneva
  - WTO Director-General, Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
  - UNCTAD Secretary-General, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan
  - ITC Executive Director, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton
  
- First, the Kingdom of Eswatini would like to congratulate the Executive Director, Mrs. Pamela Coke-Hamilton for having successfully led ITC work in partner countries, in particular, during a difficult period marked by the Covid-19 crisis. These results as elaborated upon in ITC 2021 annual reports coupled with the level of growth attained by supported MSMEs send or reinforce the message that aid and trade, and most importantly good trade is key in our countries to advance sustainable development and the SDGs.
  
- I would like to express my appreciation over the work ITC is doing in Eswatini, and the commendable results the organization have been achieving in the Kingdom, including through the Eswatini Jobs and Growth Alliances.

- **More specifically,**

ITC is delivering in Eswatini two major programmes, and that is "Support to the Implementation of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – Kingdom of Eswatini" (2022-2026), and the "Support to Job Creation and the Investment Climate project" (JC&IC), (2021-2025), which is the result of a co-creation process between the Government of Eswatini, EU and ITC

These two programmes which followed ITC's Alliances for Action methodology have the following objectives:

Sustained competitiveness of inclusive value chains assessed and public-private alliances convened
Jobs and growth in established public-private alliance Value Chains
Capacitated Trade Support Institutions, Associations to render Business development services and training
Private sector led development supported by strong Public-Private Dialogue
Increased value-addition, productivity, and competitiveness through producer-buyer alliances
SADC-EU EPA opportunity-ready Trade Promotion Organizations, Trade Support Institutions,, Associations and MSMEs

So far, the programmes have reached 1574 farmers and artisans directly, including in terms of capacity development value addition market access and in general international competitiveness.

- I would also wish to express my appreciation to the EU for their support so far
- Again, I cannot over emphasize our appreciation and satisfaction over ITC presence and work in Eswatini and welcome the project review and design mission scheduled for early October to Eswatini to engage with stakeholders towards making ITC interventions more tailored to the Kingdom's ambitions related to the SDGs

- As I conclude, I would like to also call upon partner countries to increase their support to the Eswatini development ambitions as the country continues to work towards economic recovery especially following the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- **I look forward to continued and closer collaboration with the ITC in Eswatini** and in particular on thematic areas that are dear to the country such as the climate change and how business and trade can drive the positive and much needed change
- Thank you for your attention.

*End of Note*