

ITC, Joint Advisory Group

2 July 2019

Norway's intervention

Check against delivery

First of all, I would like to thank ITC for the Annual Report and the linkages between ITC's activities and the Sustainable Development Goals. We have only a little more than a decade to deliver the SDGs, and not least, delivering on financing the SDGs. Trade is a key instrument for financing development. ITC's efforts are essentially about making the cake bigger.

The multilateral system is our most important buffer in response to complex global challenges. This is why more than half of Norwegian development assistance is channeled through multilateral organisations. A comparative advantage of multilateral organisations, like ITC, is their expertise in capacity building.

Norway and ITC have a multi-year cooperation agreement. I am pleased to inform the Joint Advisory Group that we intend to increase our grant even further this year. Our Aid for Trade budget has increased from last year, and we have decided to use part of the extra funds for ITC. I would also like to point out that all Norwegian funds go to Window I.

The Norwegian Government's new political platform puts special emphasis on the least developed countries and the most marginalised and vulnerable groups. Our partner's ability to deliver for the poorest, will be very important for us. I believe that ITC will be able to demonstrate that it delivers on income opportunities for the poorest.

Let me end by commending ITC for the She Trades initiative. There is an urgent need to harness the economic potential of women. Norway is a great fan of She Trades.

Thank you.