

Cambodia's Statement
Fifty-Fourth Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting
25 November 2020

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank chair of the 53rd Joint Advisory Group Meeting for her fruitful chairman-ship and congratulate you on your election as the chair of the 54th Joint Advisory Group Meeting. My thanks also go to the previous speakers for their insightful and informative interventions.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express our deep congratulation to Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton on her recent appointment as the new Executive Director of ITC. We believe that under her able leadership, ITC will achieve further outcomes and expand the relation of both sides.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ITC for the good cooperation and assistance provided, in the areas of trade promotion, export strategy, gender equity, market analysis and research tools, non-tariff measures, survey and capacity building.

We take note of ITC's actions in responding to the COVID19 Pandemic. Recently, in collaboration with department of SMEs of the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation and with the Ministry of Commerce, ITC is conducting a SME Survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Cambodian businesses. On other note, we also appreciate the recent ITC's support to strengthen Cambodia's commercial diplomacy.

Madam Chair,

We have found that ITC supports to Cambodian MSMEs to tap into China's Belt and Road initiative and the business opportunities that offers to Asian LDCs as well as the support on MSMEs for Sustainable Development Goals were very helpful. In addition, ITC's support to Cambodian SMEs for the 1st and 2nd edition of China International Import Expo covered cashew nuts, rice and rice products, peppers, beverages and other agro-processed products was contributed to create business opportunity and increase our exports. I would like to thank Her Excellency, Ms. Arancha González, former Executive Director and her team for every effort to make these supports happened.

Moreover, we appreciate ITC for its contributions to Cambodia's Trade SWAp for the last three generations and the fourth generation which was launched on 3rd July 2019 by Samdech Techo Prime Minister of Cambodia at the 7th Global Review of Aid for Trade.

As already raised by H.E. PAN Sorasak, Minister of Commerce at the last year Joint Advisory Group Meeting that there are some areas under the CTIS 2019-2023, which ITC would consider to support during its implementation. Those areas include human resource and skill development, export promotion, export diversification and increase competitiveness for SMEs.

I would like to thank our partners who have contributed to our development efforts and call upon them to support the implementation of the said strategy as well as to continue support ITC to enable it in helping LDCs including Cambodia.

Finally, Madam Chair, we look forward to engaging closely with ITC team under leadership of Ms. Pamela, to deepen our good cooperation and relation in the areas of our interests.

I thank you.