

**Statement by China at the 58th Session of the
Joint Advisory Group of International Trade Centre**

June 25, 2024

Madam Chair,

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,

Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan,

Executive Director Pamela Coke-Hamilton,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It is glad to attend today's JAG meeting. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to extend our congratulations to Ambassador Ms. Hend Abdalrahman Al-Muftah on being appointed as the chair of the 58th session. We appreciate the outgoing chair, Ambassador Ms. Nadia Theodore, for her excellent work at the 57th session. We also thank the secretariat for convening this session.

China commends ITC for providing extensive trade-related technical assistance to the developing countries, with an aim of helping MSMEs to enhance competitiveness in the global market. ITC's work has given

strong boost to inclusive, green and digital trade growth, and provided supportive strength to regional integration and South-South cooperation. We are delighted to see that ITC's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan is making good progress. We applaud that the four moonshots reflecting the vision and mission of ITC can make positive efforts at implementing UN 2030 Agenda.

Madame Chair,

In the video address delivered earlier at the opening ceremony of UNCTAD's 60th anniversary, President Xi Jinping pointed out that, the world is undergoing faster changes unseen in a century. Peace and development is confronted with new challenges. In this context, we need to foster an international environment for peaceful development, follow the trend toward open development, and harness the historic opportunity for innovation-driven development. President Xi emphasized, China will actively seek to import more from other developing countries, step up our cooperation in trade, investment and development, and help implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China will also support a more effective role of the multilateral agencies. This address leads the direction of the cooperation between China and ITC.

China cherishes the long-term cooperative relationship with ITC. Besides providing the annual contribution to ITC, China also supports ITC to apply for the funds from Global Development Fund, and UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, to implement technical cooperation programmes among other developing countries in the areas such as e-trade, green development, trade in service, investment facilitation and so on.

Looking into the future, China stands ready to strengthen the cooperation with ITC. Under the framework of Global Development Initiative and Belt & Road Initiative, we look forward to work with ITC to improve trade facilitation by promoting trade digitalization among development countries. We would like to cooperate with ITC at knowledge sharing and capacity building in E-commerce to help more MSMEs to utilize the opportunities of digital economy to expand export. And we also would like to work with ITC to accelerate green trade and help achieve economic transition of the developing countries.

Madame Chair,

Today, the MSMEs are facing more difficulties to survive and develop. As a 60-year-old international agency, ITC has been playing a unique role

in promoting trade liberalization, and inclusive & sustainable trade through aid for trade. Today we would like to wish ITC a happy birthday, and look forward to ITC's continuous efforts at providing more timely solutions to the MSMES, helping them achieve strong and sustainable development in near future.

Thank you.