

**Statement by the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to
the WTO and International Economic Organizations at the Joint
Advisory Group meeting**

Geneva, 25 June 2024

Thank you, Chair.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank you for inviting us to the Joint Advisory Group Meeting. I also extend my gratitude to the ITC staff for their efforts in preparing this event and the relevant documents.

Kazakhstan has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) over the years, marked by impactful projects and initiatives. Since 2020, ITC has supported Kazakhstan through **the EU-funded Ready4Trade Central Asia** project. This project has made significant structural changes, enhancing regional cooperation and trade facilitation reforms in Central Asia, and improving connectivity within and beyond the region.

The project has facilitated more efficient and inclusive trade, significantly contributing to Kazakhstan's development as a strategic trading partner. Allow me to highlight some key achievements from this collaboration:

- Together with ITC, we launched **the Kazakhstan Trade Portal**, administered by QazTrade. This portal provides easy access to information on cross-border trade procedures for over 40 product groups. The information is also integrated into **the Central Asia Gateway**, a regional trade information platform combining data from five national trade facilitation portals in Central Asia.
- ITC supports us in **fostering digitalization and paperless trade**. We are modernizing our electronic queue management system and digitalizing certificates of origin processes.
- In collaboration with UNCTAD, the project **developed recommendations for updating Kazakhstan's e-commerce legislation**, with ongoing support from ITC for their implementation.
- The project has **built SME trade capacities through the Virtual Learning Space (VLS) platform** - QazTrade Academy, and tailored coaching, as well as through enhancing SMEs e-commerce activities.
- We are grateful to ITC for **co-organizing successful international events** in Kazakhstan, such as **the Business Forum during the 2nd EU-Central Asia Economic Forum in Almaty**. It was an honor to have Pamela Coke-Hamilton join us, adding immense value to the event.

- We sincerely acknowledge ITC's **invaluable contribution** to organizing **the 2nd Trade Policy Forum in Almaty in June 2024**, in collaboration with the WTO.

Tomorrow, key stakeholders from Central Asia, the EU, and international partners **will gather in Almaty to celebrate the achievements of the Ready4Trade Project**. I extend our sincere gratitude to ITC for its collaboration and assistance, and to the European Union for its support, which has made these achievements possible over the past 4.5 years.

We hope ITC will continue supporting Kazakhstan in building a resilient, prosperous, and inclusive economy.

Thank you for your attention.