

The Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Center (ITC)

Fifty-seventh Session (20 July 2023)

Statement by Japan

Thank you very much Madam chair, on behalf of Ambassador Yamazaki I will make a statement.

At the outset, I would like to join other delegations in congratulating Ambassador Nadia Theodore on your appointment as the Chair of the 57th Joint Advisory Group. And I would like to extend our sincere appreciate for the efforts by outgoing chair Ambassador Usha DWARKA-CANABADY(ウシヤ・ドワルカ・カナバディ).

I would like to thank their insightful remarks by Director Genera Okonjo-Iweala from WTO, and Secretary General Grynspan from UNCTAD, Executive Director Coke-Hamilton from ITC,

I would also like to extend our appreciation to Executive Director Coke-Hamilton and the ITC Secretariat for their hard work, including the publication of the Annual Report 2022 and the Annual Evaluation Synthesis Report.

Japan aligns itself with the statement made by distinguished Germany delegate on behalf of the donor countries.

As the annual report points out the necessity to build resilience in the context of four C (namely, Covid-19, climate change, cost of living), the importance of the role that the ITC plays in promoting trade for inclusive and sustainable growth is increasing, as it is MSMEs, women, youth and refugees that are impacted most by such crises. Japan fully supports the continuous work of the ITC, which is well in line with the priorities of Japan.

ITC has been an important partner for Japan especially in the area of trade-related technical assistance, particularly in the area of e-commerce and digital trade. For the past few years, Japan has been collaborating with the

ITC on projects to provide digital skills to people, including youth and female entrepreneurs to keep developing and LDCs-Members to better benefit from their access to the global digital market. Japan contributed recently to the projects in West Africa to support governments, business support organizations, and MSMEs to build e-commerce capacity and the SheTrades project in Africa.

In the past year, we have also seen ITC's closer cooperation with other organizations. Especially, in various committees and working groups at the WTO, ITC has offered a wide range of its experience and expertise to deepen the discussion and facilitate the work there. We appreciate the ITC's close cooperation with other organizations and further encourage it to seek more synergies with the WTO, UNCTAD and other organizations.

To conclude, I would like to once again congratulate the ITC for its positive contributions to inclusive and sustainable development. We look forward to further continuing work with the ITC and other partners. Thank you.

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