



**Statement By Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Malawi to the UN Office and other International
Organizations in Geneva At The Joint Advisory Group
of the ITC**

13 September 2022

Room S1, World Trade Organization, Geneva

- Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor. I will make this statement on behalf of my Chargé d'affaires who regrets for not being able to attend this important meeting as he is engaged with other duties.
- At the outset, I would like to join colleagues in congratulating you for your election as Chair of the 56th session of the Joint Advisory Group, I assure you of my delegation's full support. At the same time, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair for the excellent work done during his tenure.

Madam Chair,

- I wish to commend ITC for the comprehensive report which provides a proper overview of ITC work. I further wish to commend the results achieved in 2021 under the leadership of Ms. Pamela Coke Hamilton, and sincerely thank the WTO and UNCTAD for their continuous and invaluable support to the ITC.

- **Madam Chair,**

- Malawi has strong ties with ITC and has benefited from its projects and programs throughout the years. ITC has supported Malawi with projects in trade data and information, cross border trade facilitation for SMES and inclusion of women in regional integration. Specifically:
- ITC is playing an important role in supporting the implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area, which is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063. In this regard, I would like to commend the ITC on the creation of the Africa Trade Observatory, which is supporting the African Union and Member States with the necessary data and information used in the formulation of evidenced-based trade policies. Malawi was one of the pilot countries in which this project was implemented.
- The She Trade initiative has empowered women entrepreneurs to benefit from trade opportunities created by the AfCFTA and at the same

time address the challenges they face in taking advantage of the regional integration mechanisms and participating in e-commerce.

- ITC is implementing the COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative (CBTI) programme which is facilitating cross border trade of small and medium enterprises. Malawi stands to benefit from this programme as there are over 1.6 million MSMEs in the country, MSMEs form the backbone of Malawi's economy.
- **Madam Chair,**
- We strongly believe that ITC plays a crucial role in advancing inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in least developing countries. We are looking forward to more programs from ITC which will foster women and youth empowerment and enable MSMEs to enhance their competitiveness and connecting them to global value chains.
- In conclusions, I would like to reiterate our full support to the work conducted by ITC, especially in these critical times of post pandemic recovery, geopolitical tension and the negative impact of climate change are evident, especially in developing and least developed countries.
- I would also like to thank the community of development partners who have helped ITC to carry out its mandate and wish to take this opportunity to call for increase in support and new support towards the work of the ITC.
- **I thank you for your attention.**