

**56th Session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the ITC:
Statement by Escipi3n J. OLIVEIRA G3MEZ, Assistant Secretary
General / Structural Economic Transformation and Trade**

Madame Chairperson (H.E. Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office at Geneva),

On behalf of H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto CHIKOTI, Secretary General of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, allow me to convey my congratulations on your election as the Chair of the 56th session of JAG.

The OACPS would like to take advantage of this opportunity to compliment the Executive Director of ITC, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, for her statement today and for her institution's continued support to Small and Medium Sized Enterprise from developing countries in their quest for international competitiveness and sustained growth.

We also commend the Director General of the WTO, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and the Secretary General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, as well as the Chair of the 55th Session; H.E. Mr. Paul Bekkers for their statements and views this morning.

The 2021 Annual Report provides a detailed analysis of the ITC's performance in implementing various activities under its mandate, and we have noted with satisfaction the ITC's various interventions to build inclusive and sustainable recovery in the face of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our already fragile economies. We are confident that these efforts will continue in 2023 and beyond. So far efforts to achieve a sustainable and full recovery

of the global economy have not yet yielded the desired economic results in our countries, due to multiple macroeconomic challenges, including high debt burdens, limited financial resources, and rising prices of fuels and other basic commodities.

The OACPS is proud of the close relationship that together with our longstanding development partner, the European Union, we have established with ITC, UNCTAD and the WTO and look forward of working in a collegiate approach to tackle the challenges faced by our private sector in the ever evolving national, regional and world markets such as: market access, quality assurances, value chain development, women's economic empowerment, investment promotion and facilitation, to name a few.

Our Group is convinced that in order to ensure that sustainable and inclusive recovery and growth from the various challenges we are currently facing is via a cooperative approach in which SDG 1, No Poverty, is placed at center stage.

In this regard we look forward to continue working with all of you in order to ensure a fairer world trading system in which enterprises from developing countries have the necessary tools to compete in the global market, hopefully resulting in fairer, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous societies for generations to come.

I thank you for your attention and continued support,

Gracias, Merci, Mèsi, Obrigado, Dank U, Danki, Shukran, Jai-rruh-jef, Asante, Vinaka, Faafetai, Āmeseginalehu...

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