

**Statement by the State of Qatar**  
**57<sup>th</sup> session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group (JAG)**  
**20 July 2023**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

At the outset, we would like to thank H.E. Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, for her able chairmanship during the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the JAG and take this opportunity to congratulate you Madam chair on your appointment as chair of this 57<sup>th</sup> session.

We thank and take note of the statements made by the WTO Director-General, Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the UNCTAD Secretary-General, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, and the statement by the ITC Executive Director, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton.

Madam Chair,

My delegation would like to express its recognition of the importance of this joint meeting, which informs of the strengths and weaknesses of the previous work and enables us to take the right decisions in order to fully and effectively achieve the set goals for ITC in supporting trade competitiveness and integration of SMEs into global value chains.

In this context, we would like to congratulate the ITC for the brilliant results achieved during the last year despite its multiple and overlapping crises of pandemic aftermath, deteriorating climate, conflict, and rising cost-of-living. Operating in such a tough environment requires greater creativity and efficiency if we are to meet the deadline of our collective SDGs.

The results presented in the annual report shows that ITC is on the right way to the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2022–2025. We are happy to read about the projects of digital connectivity (Switch ON), “Sankofa” Project that supported smallholder cocoa farmers to adopt climate-smart cropping systems, development of “SheTrades” hubs across Africa, Climate Smart Network which helps enterprises in developing countries in the transition to a low-carbon, and many other promising projects.

We also would like to express satisfaction with the Annual Evaluation Synthesis Report (AESR) which indicate an overall relevance with ITC’s core mandate and strategic priorities, good coherence, very positive effectiveness, and the positive impact.

On the other hand, we encourage the ITC to reflect on the recommendations set out in the said report for even better performance.

To conclude, we would like to state our gratitude regarding the ongoing partnership Qatar enjoys with the ITC. We look forward to continuing to support the ITC’s work both in Geneva and elsewhere and we wish you a fruitful and productive meeting of the Joint Advisory Group.

Thank you,