

## ***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

### **Sweden Speaking points at JAG 25 June 2024**

Thank you, Madame Chair, Director General, Executive Director, Dear Excellencies, distinguished delegates, fellow participants.

Firstly, Sweden fully aligns with the Donor statement delivered earlier today.

To Sweden ITC is a long-term strategic partner in its international development-aid related to trade and we are proud to continue being one of its major donors. The relevance and the challenges for MSMEs, and hence the work of ITC, is more prominent than ever in the present global context we find ourselves in.

Although Sweden is as a major donor to ITC through Windows 2, supporting projects benefitting the priorities of donors and partners alike, Sweden also sees merit in providing non-earmarked support. Sweden, being the largest provider of this support through Window 1, recognises the much-needed flexibility this gives ITC, which is especially welcome in the unpredictable and fragile global world we are in.

Window 1 contribution goes toward strategic priorities such as sustainable and resilient value chains, inclusive, green, and digital trade, as well as regional integration. We would like to encourage other donors to provide, or increase non earmarked

funding, to ensure predictability and increase long-term stability for ITC.

Sweden takes note of and welcomes the strong results achieved under 2023 as reported in the annual report. In particular we take note that ITC is strengthening its efforts to reach out to refugees, IDPs and youth, as well as other vulnerable groups to empower and make possible entrepreneurial opportunities for all.

Sweden appreciate ITC's focus on providing technical assistance to its priority countries. We encourage ITC to continue working towards meeting the 45 % delivery target assisting LDCs, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

Furthermore, Sweden recognises the efforts made by ITC in improving its working conditions for everyone within the organisation. Sweden encourages ITC to continue this important work to ensure an enabling working environment in the long-term, and we appreciate being regularly kept informed on ITC's Moving Forward. This is not only an issue essential for the wellbeing of the staff, but also for the organisation's abilities to continue delivering good quality results, benefitting our partner countries.

Let me conclude by stressing the importance Sweden places on its long-term partnership with ITC and we look forward to further collaboration in the years to come.

I Thank you!