



**INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA AT THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) 56TH JOINT ADVISORY
GROUP (JAG) MEETING, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2022**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

As I take the floor for the first time as PR for Zambia, I wish to start by joining previous speakers in congratulating you, Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady on your election as Chairperson of this 56th Session of the Joint Advisory Group. I wish to thank you for your insightful Statement. You can count on my delegations support throughout your tenure.

Chair, I further wish to thank your predecessor His Excellency Ambassador Paul Bekkers of the Netherlands, as well as the UNCTAD Secretary General Ms. Rebeca Grynspan and the WTO Deputy Director General Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang for their Statements.

Chair, I also wish to thank the Executive Director of the ITC, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton for her report to this meeting and commend her and the ITC team for their continued efforts to strengthen and sustainably develop SMEs during some of the most unprecedented multiple global crises. Key to these efforts is their resilience to promote the participation of women and youths in trade.

My delegation thanks you for your commitment to the important work of ITC in promoting inclusive trade and development particularly in LDCs. I also wish to acknowledge and appreciate the financial support of donors and other development partners who have supported ITC in this work.

Chair, in the case of Zambia, ITC's trade-related technical support continue to play a very important role in its national development agenda. Some of the specific benefits from ITC and other development partners include trade-related technical support in areas that focus on strengthening productive capabilities and value chain alliances, enhancing export capacities as well as increasing women participation in trade, among others.

Chair, Zambia will continue her efforts to facilitate a conducive environment which maximizes the output of assistance programmes and efforts by our development partners. The Zambian Government remains resolute to put in place necessary frameworks and policies that will ease implementation of programmes in line with the set project objectives.

Chair, allow me to take this opportunity to also inform you and by extension everyone present today that Zambia recently launched its 8th National Development Plan. The National Development Plan is anchored on four key development pillars, namely; economic transformation and job creation; human and social development; environmental sustainability; and good governance. Through this National Development Plan, Zambia is demonstrating her strong resolve to ensure that the necessary adjustments are made to its current economic landscape in order to deliver inclusive development and sustainable transformation for all.

Chair, I wish to close by pointing out that the desired strategic interventions and outcomes in the National Development Plan intersect with the envisioned outcomes of assistance programmes and projects of the ITC and development partners. My delegation will therefore be engaging ITC and other development partners to discuss in detail our national priorities in order to identify possible areas of collaboration.

I thank you.