



**INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CENTRE (ITC) 58<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) MEETING, 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
2024**

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Chairperson, I thank you for giving me the floor.

The Zambian delegation joins others in congratulating you on the assumption of your role as Chairperson of the Joint Advisory Group.

Allow me to express appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Nadia Theodore for her leadership over the past year. Our appreciation also goes to Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the WTO Director General and Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, the Secretary General of UNCTAD for their Statements.

Chairperson, let me begin by commending the ITC team under the stewardship of Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton for the work done in 2023 in implementing ITCs 2022 to 2025 strategic plan. The mid-term review of the plan is timely. A quick glance at the document shows that ITC has been successful in implementing its priorities over the period which is commendable. We take note of the findings and proposed recommended way forward.

Zambia has continued to benefit from ITCs support through projects such as the "Switch on Initiative" which has provided support for MSMEs in bridging the digital divide and enhancing their market access and investment potential. Like other LDCs, Zambia is committed to creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, therefore, the digital connectivity component being championed by ITC has proven instrumental in this regard.

We remain confident that investments in digital connectivity and support through hands-on skills training and information sharing, policy reform and key partnerships will continue going forward so that small businesses in developing and least developed countries like Zambia can be able to maximise their benefits from digital trade.

Chairperson, I wish to express appreciation to the ITC for their inclusive partnership with Zambia. Their support has continued to promote innovation, gender equality, provision of decent jobs and enable partnerships for sustainable growth. We therefore look forward to strengthening our collaboration with ITC on current and future projects in the period ahead.

Chairperson, let me conclude by indicating that my delegation will continue to engage directly with ITC and other development partners on the various programmes under implementation to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth through trade.

I thank you.

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