

Australia

Thank you for giving me the floor. Let me begin by endorsing the comprehensive statement delivered by Canada on behalf of donors on the steering committee. The ITC's management response lays out clear deliverables. The structure used, incorporating action items, timelines, clear responsibility and methods of verification, should ensure that the implementation of all 24 action items can move forward in an organized and transparent manner.

For Australia, the independent review of the ITC and this subsequent management response offers a chance to contribute to fine tuning an engine which we believe is already running well. We are pleased with the work of the ITC and proud to partner with them in areas as diverse as Women's SME empowerment in the Pacific and Services capacity building right here in Geneva.

Australia has committed to a target of 20 per cent for our aid for trade component of overseas development assistance. We believe that the ITC can be a significant partner in helping us reach that target while retaining our focus on real, tangible and effective outcomes.

We commend the energetic and innovative leadership of Executive Director Arancha Gonzales. We trust that she will continue honing the competitive advantage of the ITC in SME competitiveness as the organization grows. While echoing the points raised by Canada on changes we would like to see made to the management response, we otherwise welcome the call of Executive Director Gonzales to

move into implementation and we look forward to participating therein. Thank you.