

Statement of Cambodia
51st ITC Joint Advisory Group (JAG) meeting
10 July 2017

Madame Chairman,
Madame Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of ITC,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to congratulate you for assuming the role as the chair of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG). We wish to thank the outgoing chair for his successful work. My delegation also thanks to all speakers, especially Madame Arancha Gonzalez for her able leadership to achieve all the works as mentioned in her comprehensive opening remarks.

Madame Chairman,

ITC has been providing trade-related technical assistance to Cambodia for many years in important areas such as set-up the country's Trade SWAp, gender equality, standards, market research, export strategies, non-tariff measures and value chain development.

Allow me to highlight some remarkable activities of ITC in Cambodia:

For the Value chain development: ITC supports the Cambodian silk sector from 2005-2016, which is one of the Government's priority sectors for export diversification and poverty alleviation. Cambodian silk exporters increased their sales and profits by 20-30%, exports by 74%, and sales to tourists by 46%.

For Non-tariff measures: 500 companies were interviewed. Of which 69% affected by NTMs according to ITC NTM survey conducted in Cambodia in 2012-2013.

For Market analysis and research: ITC provided training seminars and coaching to 20 Ministry officials in the areas of market research, value chain analysis and business management; Sector profiles and strategies were developed as well as validated for rice, cassava and cashew nuts.

For Gender equality: ITC has a partnership for gender equality with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) and Women's Development Centre (WDC) to enhance sustainable livelihoods through the generation of employment and higher income for women and women producer's groups from Kampong Speu, one of the poorest provinces in Cambodia,

Madame Chairman,

ITC is committed to strengthen its partnership with Cambodia to support the country's trade development and promotion. ITC has received various requests for support from the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Commerce in the areas of expertise where ITC can have the greatest impact in line with the priorities of the Government. Those include:

- 1) Trade facilitation and the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement,
- 2) Trade promotion,
- 3) Standards and compliance with market requirements, to address the identified NTBs and
- 4) Private sector development, and inclusive value chains strengthening.

We appreciate ITC for its current assistances focus on the set-up of an independent TPO in Cambodia, the study on a strategy for the Cambodian garment sector/sports bag for exports to EU as well as the study on Cambodia and the China One Belt and One Road initiative.

Cambodia therefore wishes to continue and deepen its partnership with ITC to deliver trade related technical assistance, capacity building and market intelligence to SMEs. Furthermore, Cambodia requires ITC to continue their supports for implementing on-going projects in the areas of know-how to achieve country's Aid for Trade Strategy 2016-2020, the implementation of trade facilitation, trade promotion, private sector development, and value chains strengthening.

Madame Chairman,

Finally, my delegation wishes to express our sincere thanks to all development partners and ITC team for their productive works and supports. We encourage the development partners to increase their contributions and supports to ITC so that Cambodia and other LDCs can continue reaping benefits from it.

Thank you