

JAG July 10, 2018: Danish statement

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and congratulations to you for your new role here in the JAG.
- I would also like to thank Arancha Gonzalez and her colleagues in ITC for continuing and strengthening their excellent work for MSME's and the SDG's.
- Denmark has been a long-standing donor to the ITC. Our cooperation goes back into the last decades of the 20th century. However, in 2015, our contributions were interrupted because of the European refugee crisis and severe budget cuts. Our Aid for Trade Program in Geneva was hit across the board, not only the ITC.
- I am happy to announce that we are now in a position to resume our contribution to ITC – and at a higher level than before. It will amount to about 4.7 mio. USD per year from 2018-20 out of a total Aid for Trade Program in Geneva at about 7.3 mio. USD per year or 23 mio. USD for the three-year period.
- You can deduct from these figures that ITC plays a major role in our new Aid for Trade program, taking up more than half of our annual contributions to the Geneva agencies.
- The reason for this is simple and straightforward: In our new Danish development strategy, The World 2030, the private sector in the developing countries is identified as an indispensable engine for sustainable growth and for meeting the SDG's which the whole strategy is based on. With this new three-year program for Aid for Trade we emphasize the importance of SME competitiveness for driving the SDG agenda. And we recognize the effectiveness of ITC as a development agency to achieve results exactly there.
- The full annual contribution will go to Window 1. There will be a special emphasis on the VA2T, NTM and Trade Facilitation programs – but all of the Danish contribution will be un-earmarked.
- Finally, our Aid for Trade program seeks to contribute to the convergence of bilateral and multilateral aid programs at country level. There is a lot more to do on this in terms of coordination on the ground without resorting to Window 2 funding – and certainly not exclusively through that Window. We are looking forward to working with you on this common priority during the coming years.
- Thank you. It is a great pleasure for us to resume our cooperation.