

Mr. Chairman, the Ethiopian Delegation would like to add its voice to those who did congratulate you on assuming chairing this 52nd session of annual JAG meeting.

Chairman,

ITC's work, whether on economic empowerment for the neediest, the women and youth, on areas of building agri-processing value chains, creating e-solutions or improving countries' business environment, are directly linked to the most of the SDGs and are deeply connected to the priorities that many of your countries have set out. This type of assistance that ITC is engaged are really invaluable.

In Ethiopia currently, ITC is engaged in supporting different projects among which, the SITA project, that is focused on spices trade exploring the transfer of Indian best practices to Ethiopian spices sector. Ethiopia is also one of beneficiary of the PIGA project that has targeted to increase investment-led exports and local development by increasing foreign investments and business partnerships in two productive sectors, agro-processing and light manufacturing.

The Government of Ethiopia, would like to thank donor partner countries for their support so far and promises made, without which ITC would have not been achieved its intended objectives.

My delegation is self-assured that under the stewardship of the Executive Director Ms. González and her Deputy Ms. Thambo, the whole management team and the dedicated expertise of the staff, ITC would continue to deliver on its main objectives of, improving technical cooperation in international trade concentrating on the operational business-related aspects of trade development and most importantly helping enterprises specially of small and medium-sized enterprises, where women are the main beneficiaries, in building their capacity to improve their trade performances.

I thank you.