

Statement by India at 55th Session of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre (ITC) delivered by Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Permanent Representative

02 November 2021, Geneva [10 am – 1pm]

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

1. Allow me to begin by thanking the outgoing Chair, her excellency the Permanent Representative of Botswana for ably leading the Joint Advisory Group. I also thank the ITC Secretariat for their efforts in preparation for this meeting.

Chair,

2. India appreciates the work done by ITC in highlighting the uniquely adverse impact of the pandemic on MSMEs. The research and advocacy provided by ITC have supported the MSME community especially in a year as difficult as 2020. India also commends ITC for the positive impact it created through the focused interventions in 2020. Promoting trade as a means of economic development, including economic development of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and economies in transition, will remain a critical part of ITC's work in the coming year as the global economy enters a period of recovery.
3. In spite of the constraints placed by the pandemic, the cooperation between India and the ITC is strong. Our contribution to the ITC Trust Fund, although modest, provides flexibility to the ITC according to its priorities. We are also keen to further deepen our partnership with ITC and to this effect we have proposed 3 initiatives to the ITC Secretariat : First, in exploring the continuation of ITC's Project on Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA). Second, in helping developing countries strengthen the regime of setting and developing national standards and third in providing capacity building and training program according to their needs via e-ITEC programs, through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation initiative. We look forward to ITC's positive and early response to these proposals.

Chair

4. The pandemic has emphasized the need for global trade infrastructure, for supply chains to be more resilient. As underscored by my Prime Minister at the G20 Summit last week, for

building resilient supply chains three aspects are important – Trusted Source, Transparency and Time-Frame. To diversify global supply chains there is a need to develop alternative manufacturing in developing countries.

Chair,

5. Supporting the global fight against the pandemic India has played the role of Pharmacy of the World. India has delivered medicines to over 150 countries. At the same time, we continue to accelerating vaccine research and manufacturing and we have begun again global supply of vaccines. In a short span of time, we have administered over one billion vaccine doses in India. This is a major milestone in our collective global fight against the pandemic.
6. In India's development cooperation, we have been guided by our partners' development priorities. Our concessional Lines of Credit of over US\$ 30 billion, our grants-in-aid projects, and our flagship training and capacity building project under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) have made a huge contribution to the development of the fellow developing countries. The US\$ 150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund continues to support transformational sustainable development projects with a focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
7. Contributing to the global climate action and to deal with the changes due to global warming, India has taken initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, where India has pledged US\$ 1.7 billion for solar energy projects, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, where we have launched an initiative for resilient infrastructure in Island States.

Chair,

8. On the path to recovery, India launched it ambitious mission to build a self-reliant India, an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, which will enable India, based on its competence and dependability, to become a reliable pillar of global economy and trade. The initiative aims at unlocking India's latent potential. We have encouraged indigenous manufacturing through our Make in India mission, encouraging skill development through Skill India Mission, promoting indigenous

research and development through Innovate India and Start-up India Missions.

9. India has improved the ease of doing business. We have continued to carry out essential reforms, including recent reforms in labour and internal trade in agro products. We have eased restrictions on FDI and in spite of pandemic we have been able to attract a record amount of FDI.

Chair,

10. India is keen to further deepen its trade and economic relations with the world. We value our relationship with the ITC and look forward to working closely with it.

Thank you, Chair.