

Statement by Jamaica
52nd Session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group Meeting
10th July 2017

Thank you Mr. Chairman

At the outset let me congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of this 52nd Joint Advisory Group Meeting. We also thank Ambassador Frances Lisson for her stewardship of the 51st Session.

The Jamaican Government places on record, our appreciation to Executive Director Mrs. Arancha Gonzalez, and the entire ITC Team, for the invaluable work undertaken over the years, in providing technical cooperation and assistance activities in favour of our countries. We thank the Executive Director for her report on the progress made on ITC activities and planned events for the period ahead.

We also thank Secretary General Kituyi and Deputy Director General Agah for their insightful and informative statements; and our two brave entrepreneurs, Ms. Zarouk and Mr. Okansi, for their inspiring testimonials.

Mr. Chairman, Jamaica applauds the ITC for its excellent work in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development. We commend the ITC for its agility and responsiveness in seeking to address the needs of developing and least developing countries. Of particular benefit, are those interventions aimed at addressing supply-side capacity constraints; these

interventions have brought about lasting positive impacts in the economies of those countries which have benefitted from the ITC's assistance in this area.

In this context, we commend those development partners, many of which are represented here today, who continue to provide invaluable financial and technical support to the important work of the ITC. We encourage them to maintain a high level of support during the next cycle of the Strategic Plan activities.

Mr. Chairman, Jamaica is one of several Caribbean countries which is benefitting from a number of critical projects and programmes which are vital for our economic development. At the national level, one of the most recent ITC activities was the support given to the National Trade Facilitation Taskforce. The ITC reviewed and then consolidated, all recent reports and publications on Jamaica's trade environment published by development partners and national stakeholders. Based on this analysis, four (4) roadmaps to improve Jamaica's trade environment were developed. Jamaica is also pleased to report that we have benefitted from several critical projects related to the creative industries and women in business.

Mr. Chairman, Jamaica looks forward to cooperating with the ITC on future capacity-building initiatives as we view the ITC as a key resource in our economic development strategy. We also note the Executive Director's concern regarding the budget and await her proposal for our consideration.

I thank you.