

**The Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC)
Fiftieth session (July 4th, 2016)
Statement by Japan**

Thank you Mister Chair, for giving me the floor.

Japan fully supports the statement by the Ambassador of Germany on behalf of the donor countries.

Mister Chair, I would like to join others to congratulate you for your election as a chair of the 50th Joint Advisory Group.

We would also like to extend our appreciation for Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez and the ITC team for their report on the achievement in 2015 as well as the Operational Plan for 2016.

Japan commends Executive Director's effort to set clear goals to achieve further impact, while responding to the challenging financial climate. Especially, Japan commends ITC's effort to strengthen partnerships with various actors including private sector and academia, and to apply innovative instrument to leverage the impact of the programs.

Japan supports Executive Director's continuous commitment to the Result Based Management, as well as to the active communication with member states. We believe that this has contributed to building trust and confidence between members and ITC, and Japan stands ready to actively engage in the discussion to further enhance the quality of ITC's work.

Mister Chair,

Japan shares the view that it is essential for developing countries to build up their export capacities and to be integrated in global value chain, in order to enjoy full potential gained through international trade. In this regard, Japan is

especially pleased to see ITC's focus on women's empowerment and capacity building of women-owned-SMEs. Japan has been contributing in this field through the Ethical Fashion Programme since 2007, and we look forward to seeing this program further contribute in women's empowerment in Africa.

Japan appreciates ITC's work on E-Commerce. E-Commerce is transforming the global economy, and has become a powerful engine of global economic growth. A number of challenges, however, still remain to be addressed. Japan stands ready to actively engage in the discussions on E-Commerce in various fora with a view to unleashing the potential of E-Commerce, and in this regard, Japan commends various initiatives by ITC in the area of E-Commerce, including the e-Solution Programme and the recent publication titled "Bringing SMEs onto the e-Commerce Highway".

Lastly, Japan will co-host the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD VI, in August in Nairobi. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the representatives of African countries and ITC for their constructive engagement. TICAD VI will be an important opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen our partnership on critical issues related to African development, including economic diversification and industrialization.

Thank you, Mister Chair.