



KENYA

**STATEMENT BY KENYA DURING THE 49TH SESSION OF
THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON FRIDAY, 26TH JUNE
2015, 10:00AM AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ROOM S1**

Madam Chair,

Kenya takes this opportunity to warmly welcome Your Excellency, as the Chair of the 49th Session of this Joint Advisory Group of the ITC. We look forward to working with you in furtherance of the noble objectives of the ITC during your tenure.

I also wish to express our appreciation to Her Excellency Mariam Salleh Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the World trade Organisation for having successfully steered the Joint Advisory Group during the 48th session till the handover today.

I further wish to recognise the insightful statements delivered this morning by Mr. Roberto Azevedo the Director General of WTO; Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi the Secretary General of UNCTAD and Ms. Arancha Gonzales the Executive Director of ITC.

Madam Chair,

Kenya conveys appreciation to the ITC family for the exemplary and professional results delivered during the 2014 period. In particular, I commend the Executive Director for skilful, diligent leadership and her staff for the dedication, disciplined focus and practical orientation towards advancing progress in areas of trade facilitation, Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (MSMEs), policy advice, providing IT solutions to SMEs and women entrepreneurs, among others.

At the core of ITCs work, is the recognition of the employment opportunities created, incomes generated, improvement of livelihoods and thereby contribution to economic growth and development in many of our countries. We are however cognizant of the tripartite collaboration between WTO, UNCTAD and the ITC in optimizing delivery in the various aspects of trade, business development as well as capacity building and technical assistance.

Madam Chair,

In spite of the above observations, the achievements of ITC as highlighted in the Annual Report for 2014 and motivated by the observation therein that “trade growth in 2014 remained well

below the long-run trends” it is obvious that a lot still has to be done to make trade the centre-piece for development, poverty alleviation and prosperity. How to achieve this expectation should be, in my view, the critical focus of our discussion here and other fora.

For Kenya, we are reflecting on how the forthcoming WTO 10th Ministerial Conference will contribute to making trade the critical pillar for development. In this respect, we should take time think about the expected outcome of the MC10; what would be the core elements of a successfully concluded Doha Development Round and; how will or should the global trade and trade negotiations landscape evolve thereafter. I believe these concerns are equally shared by the WTO, UNCTAD and ITC.

I am nonetheless convinced that we- organizations and Member states- collectively and individually have a role and responsibility to look at the future of global trade in the context of the tenth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in December 2015 and also the post-2015 Development Agenda to be adopted in September 2015. In this respect I am encouraged that ITC has clearly identified in its operational plan for 2015 the 5th Global Aid for Trade Review in Geneva and 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi – as occasions

for ITC to contribute to the global discourse on the interplay among trade, investment, aid and development.

Madam Chair,

Let me take this opportunity to underline the fact that Kenya is beneficiary to ITC's projects and programmes at national level, the East Africa Community level and at the Pan Africa level with the African Union. Just to point out a few, for Kenya I wish to highlight the Ethical Fashion Initiative- East Africa chapter with a Fashion hub in Nairobi; tea sector adaptation to climate change project, improving the economic benefits for women in the coffee sector and, enhancing export competitiveness in various sectors. At the regional level I wish to recognise cross-border trade facilitation particularly for women entrepreneurs. At the Pan African level, Kenya will benefit from the trade observatory for Africa and the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area.

I however wish to underscore the importance of adequate and predictable funding for ITC projects and programmes for effective implementation. I therefore call on partners and donors to continue and increase financial and technical support to ITC in this endeavour. As stated in the Report on the Implementation of the ITC Management Response Actions "... the deployment of ITC services in a wide range of countries

and regions will be greatly aided by longer term financial commitments from funders”

Let me conclude by wishing the ITC family fruitful deliberations during this 49th session of the Joint Advisory Group and reaffirm our continued support and collaboration.

I thank You.

