

48th Session of the Joint Advisory Group of International Trade Centre

Statement by the Kenya Delegation: 11th June 2014

The Kenya delegation would like to thank you, Madam Chair, for your official statement and warmly congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the 48th JAG edition. We would also like to thank the out-going Chair of the 47th Session, the WTO Director-General, the UNCTAD Secretary-General and the ITC Executive Director for their insightful statements.

Chair, for many years, the ITC has continued to be not only a strategic partner but also a dependable development partner on matters of export development programmes with demonstrable tangible results. At 50, we take this opportunity to congratulate and wish them many more years of good health to continue partnering and walking with us in this path.

As we mark its 50th year Anniversary, it is self-evident to all of us that ITC is a good friend of SMEs particularly those in developing countries and indeed has done a lot in hand-walking them to global markets. Those particularly linked to women, youth as well as the urban and rural poor have been the biggest beneficiaries of their programmes and it just goes without saying that indeed these are the groups in our midst that bear the fullest blunt of poverty particularly in the Sub - Saharan Africa. Just to share with this gathering some of its notable achievements in Kenya, the ITC and its Ethical Fashions Initiative working with Ethical Fashion Africa Ltd, a social enterprise based in Nairobi since 2009;

- 1500 women micro-entrepreneurs have been connected with international fashion markets

- their income levels have increased in excess of 200 percent
- 83% of them are able to educate their children
- 93% have learnt new skills, and
- a large number of them affirm - they have earned respect from their male counterparts due to their ability to earn a living, leading to self- confidence and empowerment.
- Chair, this is just but to name a few.

At government level, we have closely worked with ITC on matters of skills-development related to market analysis tools and non-tariff measures and the result has been very impressive.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, ITC is delivering results and has done well in building the competitiveness of SMEs in the developing world. It has also successfully mapped and developed interventionary programmes targeting poverty reduction thus contributing to realisation of the MDGs. We hope donors will continue supporting this organization to continue making this worthwhile contribution to the poorest of the poor.

Thank you.