



KENYA

**INTERVENTION BY KENYA DELEGATION DURING THE 52ND
SESSION OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE, 10TH JULY 2018,
AT THE WTO RM S1, GENEVA**

Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Kenya delegation, I wish congratulate your Excellency Ambassador Alvaro Molinari on your assumption of the Chair of the 52nd session of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre (ITC).

I also wish to express appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Her Excellency Ambassador Frances Lisson for her dedication and diligent stewardship of the Joint Advisory Group during the 51st session.

I thank you all for the introductory and welcome statements delivered this morning.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the Deputy Director General of WTO, Mr. Agah and the Secretary General of UNCTAD Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi for their informative statements.

I particularly thank the Executive Director of ITC, Madam Arancha Gonzales for the elaborate and enlightening statement that in some detail highlighted the achievements made by ITC in 2017 and also provided some salient points relating to the ITC strategic plan 2019-2021. The Kenya delegation congratulates the Executive Director and the staff of the ITC for the achievements and, wishes

you success on the road towards implementation of the Strategic plan 2018-2021.

I further wish to congratulate the young entrepreneurs - from Libya and Ghana- who shared their experience. It would be interesting if the young entrepreneurs are given an opportunity to share their experience with other youth as a way of encouragement.

Mr. Chairman,

The relevance and importance of ITC is more important now given that the multilateral trading system is facing momentous challenges. In the face of these challenges, the ITC continues to focus on building the capacity of small producers and exporters including through connecting them to markets thereby giving hope in a global environment that seem to promise otherwise.

Mr. Chairman,

The ITC Annual report for 2017 vividly confirms our engagement with ITC as Member States, development partners, the private sector and more important, the Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The report highlights the strong focus of ITC work towards supporting MSMEs, empowering women entrepreneurs, supporting the ethical fashion initiative as well as the trade and investment support institutions. ITC's market intelligence tools as well as the Trade Help desk are initiatives, among others that are worth mention. I am encouraged to point out that Kenyan MSMEs and other stakeholders have participated in and benefited from most of the projects, programmes and initiatives of the ITC and look forward to continued and even stronger partnership in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

ITC's partnership and collaborative approach that brings together governments, private sector and people at the grassroots is commendable. This approach ensures that activities impact on those really in need.

It is obvious that for ITC to continue doing this good work, it needs resources. We therefore join other speakers who have called upon the development partners- donors- to continue supporting ITC in its efforts to assist those in need and thereby contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman**, I wish to comment the 2018 Annual Evaluation Synthesis Report that points out several ways and means that can enhance delivery and efficiency of work carried out by the ITC. In particular, Kenya delegation renders support to the key recommendation regarding the need to incentivize the use of innovation in ITC projects and programmes. This will not only enhance efficiency and effectiveness but also guarantee sustainability of ITC's outputs and outcomes.

In conclusion, I wish to confirm Kenya's continued commitment to work with, support and benefit from activities undertaken by the ITC.

I thank you.