

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova  
at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the International Trade Centre  
(Geneva, 12 June 2014)**

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Madame Chair,  
Ms. Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez,  
Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation is very pleased and honoured to attend the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Advisory Group in conjunction with the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ITC. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Salleh on her election as the Chair of the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Advisory Group.

Our thanks also go to Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez and the ITC staff for their work in implementing ITC's objectives, as well as for the excellent preparations of this year's anniversary events.

The professionalism and the quality of work done by ITC experts has proved instrumental in helping the developing world promote exports and boost trade.

ITC has become one of the world's leading organizations to foster sustainable economic development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through a range of programmes which target trade and international business development.

ITC's databases and market analysis tools in the area of tariffs and non-tariff measures serve as very useful instruments that companies and trade support institutions use for comparing market access conditions and for identifying new trade opportunities.

We would also like to acknowledge the publication of the Trade Facilitation Business Guide. This first-rate paper assists countries to better understand the legal and practical implications of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement with a view to take advantage of the agreement, as well as to identify the needs for technical assistance to implement it.

Over the years, the Republic of Moldova has benefited from several ITC programmes to promote trade and export potential in cooperation with the Government, as well as the private sector.

The implementation of concrete projects have brought added value and tangible input in the area of trade promotion and SME's development, in particular, and to the growth of the national economy, in general.

Madame Chair,

One of the main priorities of the Moldovan Government is to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in order to facilitate integration of the national economy into the European market under the forthcoming Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the European Union. To achieve this, the Government needs to address certain constraints at the national, institutional and enterprise levels.

From this perspective, the two recent project initiatives developed by ITC for my country are tailored to enhance SME's export competitiveness and cross-border capacities, and strengthen the national framework for trade.

We are confident that with the support of the donor countries, the implementation of these projects will be achieved.

The Republic of Moldova looks forward to continue working closely with ITC with a view to strengthen our integration into the world economy and to promote trade and sustainable development.

In conclusion, on behalf of my delegation, I once again congratulate ITC's management and staff on 50 years of outstanding support of trade development of the beneficiary countries.

Thank you, Madame Chair.