

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) ON ITC

11 JUNE, 2014

STATEMENT BY NIGERIA.

Thank you Madam Chair,

We would like to congratulate you for your election as Chairperson , we have confidence in your leadership and guidance, and assure you of our full support. My delegation is pleased to participate in the historic 50th Anniversary Celebrations and 48th of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC). We join previous speakers in congratulating ITC for this important milestone. We also congratulate the ED, ITC and her team for her focused leadership and for raising the profile of the organization, since assumption of office.

We commend ITC for the excellent documentation prepared for the meeting. We are grateful for the priority accorded to African continent, in the context of regional integration. We are indebted to the donors for their generosity and faith in ITC's ability to deliver on its mandate. We acknowledge the strong partnership and collaboration between ITC, UNCTAD and WTO. This should continue through the pursuit of complementary activities, without duplication of efforts. An important area of collaboration is the joint initiative on Trade Facilitation, following the successful conclusion of MC9. We thank Mr. Roberto Azevedo, Director-General WTO; and Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD and Ms. Arancha, ED, ITC for their insightful remarks.

Madam Chair,

We congratulate ITC for the unprecedented achievements, since its establishment in 1964. As a beneficiary, ITC expertise and support to Africa is well acknowledged. It is gratifying to note that the International Trade Centre has helped developing and transition economies achieve sustainable development through variety of programs, such as trade and market intelligence, institutional support, enterprise-oriented programs, and public-private partnership. It does this by providing tailor made trade-development services to the private sector, trade support institutions and policy makers, in collaboration with national, regional and international bodies. We see value in the six top priority areas of focus, as highlighted by the ED, ITC.

Nigeria is supportive of the ITC strategic plan for 2015-2017, and in particular, we note with appreciation the tremendous progress achieved, since the last evaluation. It is encouraging to note that ITC has delivered more trade-related technical assistance than it has ever done, exceeding its delivery target and demonstrating credible results across all of its performance measures. This is a development that merits our commendation.

Furthermore, , It is also instructive to note that ITC is already implementing most of the recommendations by the independent evaluation. However, we are mindful of the challenges facing ITC, especially given the global economic and financial reality. To that end, we urge donors and

development partners to continue to provide adequate funds in support of ITC activities. We are pleased to note that ITC also placed more emphasis on large, multi-year programs, which independent evaluations have confirmed are more efficient, generate a higher level of stakeholder buy-in and are likely to achieve greater impact. Furthermore, my delegation is happy to note that ITC is intensifying efforts on the next generation of large projects, and is engaging with donors, beneficiary countries and partners. ITC collaboration with UNCTAD and WTO as far as the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement is concerned, should be commended. In particular, the recent publication on the Business guide to TF as a useful material, for the private sector.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, Nigeria has benefitted from a number of ITC trade-related projects. The Government has initiated reforms aimed at diversifying the economy from over dependence on oil to non-oil export products. In this regard, the Government of Nigeria, following stakeholder's consultations, would be approaching the ITC and donors for assistance with its implementation of its strategic plan for Trade, Industry and Investment.

I thank you.