

International Trade Centre

Joint Advisory Group 11 – 12 June 2014

Norway

Madame Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me join others in congratulating the International Trade Centre on its fiftieth anniversary. Norway has a long-standing relationship with ITC, and we are confident that ITC will remain one of our most important partners in trade-related capacity building.

It is crucial that opportunities are created so that people can work their way out of poverty. This will depend on a partnership with the private sector. If developing countries are to succeed in reducing poverty, they will need thousands of new businesses that boost value creation, productivity, trade and employment. The recent OECD Peer Review of Norwegian development co-operation emphasised the importance of trade and business activities for furthering long-term development. This is consistent with the Government's policy. Thus, funding for business development, including Aid for Trade, increased in this year's National budget. ITC's dedication to small and medium-sized enterprises is of course crucial within business development.

Today, intra-African trade, is not where it should be. Intra-African trade accounts for only 12 % of the continent's total trade. In Europe the equivalent

figure is 65 %. Strengthening trade and co-operation between neighbouring countries is important, also as a first step towards greater integration in global trade. Promoting regional trade is therefore a key area, and we are pleased to note that ITC is working with regional economic communities in Africa.

The OECD Peer Review stated that Norwegian development policy would benefit from having a stronger focus on results and a more targeted approach. Foreign Minister Brende expects us to become more adept at clearly specifying expected results, and at carrying out systematic evaluations and learning lessons afterwards.

Alice in wonderland was told that “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will get you there”. ~~Results management is about setting a clear direction.~~ Attention should be shifted away from a focus on inputs, activities and processes to a focus on benefits – from what we have done to what we have achieved. We are fully aware of the challenges of results management. Developing results frameworks for our own bilateral programmes and action plans has shown that this can be a demanding task.

Let me therefore emphasise that we find the results frameworks of the ITC very promising. We have studied the so-called logical frameworks of the large programmes. With baseline values, indicators, outcome and impact these frameworks could be used as a model for others. Norwegian resources will more and more be channeled through organisations able to demonstrate results. We trust the ITC to be capable of this.

In line with Norwegian political priorities, we put special emphasis on Trade and Environment, Women and Trade and the Poor Communities in Trade. We

will continue to use soft earmarking as a means to show our commitment to these programmes.

Let me conclude, by saying that I am pleased to announce that Norway will increase our annual contribution to ITC from 15 million kroner to 20 million kroner, that is approximately 3.4 million US dollars.

Thank you.

