

Thank you Chair and congratulations on your appointment as the Chair of 52nd session of JAG. We would also like to congratulate Executive Director ITC, Miss Arancha Gonzales for the commendable work being conducted by ITC.

Chair, Pakistan acknowledges the commendable work being delivered by ITC around the world to achieve inclusive growth by enabling small and medium sized enterprises and to help them to connect to international markets. Annual report for 2017 clearly shows the quality of this work in providing technical assistance and capacity building globally and delivering innovative tools for improving competitiveness of goods from developing countries and LDCs.

Chair, Pakistan has benefitted a lot from ITC in the past particularly in strengthening the institutional capacity of our trade and investment promotion organizations. We would also like to take this opportunity and acknowledge the work done by ITC in preparation of a project proposal for EU funded GRASP (Growth for Rural Development and Sustainable Progress) project.

Chair, technology and the Internet are creating a parallel model for emerging global trade. ITC has also recognized this change and is contributing tremendously in helping SMEs to adopt to this changing business environment. We being part of FEDs and FMSMEs groups in WTO have greatly benefited from their work in this regard. We also appreciate the ITC's work in facilitating trade and gender and for MC11 joint statement on Gender.

We wish the best to ITC and look forward to many more partnerships