

Statement by Rwanda at the JAG meeting, 12 June 2014

Thank you Chairperson for ably chairing this important meeting.

- First and foremost, my delegation wishes to congratulate ITC for the celebration of the 50th anniversary. It is indeed our collective celebration. Given that I attended the yesterday meeting on the evaluation report, I also welcome the report, its findings and recommendations. I mention this with no intention to discuss it, because I support the suggestion by the ED to come back to it later this year. But I can't miss one of its findings which says that ITC has been experiencing huge demands from beneficiaries with very limited resources. Is it a weakness? A challenge? Probably!

I would say that ITC is victim of its success for the following reasons.

- 50 years after ITC's creation in 1964, the international trade has grown dramatically. The role of trade as engine of growth has been demonstrated with ample empirical evidence. It's therefore obvious that many beneficiary countries submit request to an organisation such as ITC that has specialized in supporting SME development and competitiveness, Trade Support Institutions, Women and Trade, NTBs among others.
- What is also notable in the yesterday evaluation report, is that ITC has been upgrading its work on many indicators, the worse scenario being the standstill; no step back! This is commendable and we wish ITC to continue upgrading its services to Member States.
- Let me emphasize this. The need for ITC's work starts today for many countries. I say this because in some regions such as Africa and in many countries such as mine, ITC's role is crucial to help trade development that will contribute to inclusive growth, job creation, poverty reduction and development.
- Let me also say, that under the leadership of Arancha, my country is starting a new journey with ITC towards this goal. Some projects are in pipeline such as projects on value addition in some specific sectors, as well as projects on export diversification, which matter a lot in terms of economic diversification and future structural transformation. I could even add, that although Rwanda benefited from ITC in the past, it is the first time that real Synergies have been developed between the ED and various high-level leaders in my country including the Minister of Trade and Industry and of course the person who is familiar to you, the well-known Valentine Rugwabiza, former WTO DDG and currently CEO

of the Rwanda Development Board, a mega institution in charge of development of the country in various key productive sectors.

Mme ED,

- As you plan to co-organize the World Export development forum from 16-17 September 2014, let me assure you that the organization will be perfect. I believe that this is also an occasion to welcome all of you here in this room to take this opportunity to go to Rwanda, particularly you Chairperson, to participate in the Forum or as a tourist. You can't miss this opportunity. I welcome you to go and share the dream of Rwanda. The dream of Rwanda is similar to that of the ITC when this organization was created 50 years ago with only 5 people in office. It's about dreaming big!

- In conclusion, let me say this. I am confident, that with this senior management team led by Arancha and the Deputy Executive Director (Mme Dorothy Tembo is not anybody...She is former Executive Director of the EIF)... I am therefore confident that with this ambitious, competent and experienced senior management team, ITC will further upgrade its work across the board, with tangible impact on the ground in particular in Africa, especially in Rwanda.

- For donors who have been contributing to enhancing ITC's work, you deserve our high appreciation. But having in mind the gap between the demand and supply, there is need to innovate and grant to ITC the status it deserves in terms of absorbing the bulk of the Aid for Trade resources in order to bridge this gap and to make it happen for our collective satisfaction.

I thank you