

Singapore Statement delivered during the Join Advisory Group (JAG) on 10 July 2017

ITC's work, with a clear focus on small businesses (or MSMEs, as we refer to them now), contributes significantly to inclusive trade. Such initiatives are all the more important today, as we face increasingly prominent anti-trade sentiments globally. Amidst these challenges, we need to demonstrate through thought leadership, coupled with concrete actions, that trade matters for all and is inclusive. We welcome and encourage further collaboration between ITC, international and regional organisations and all relevant partners towards this end.

We greatly appreciate ITC's initiatives – initiatives undertaken in-country, which we view as one of the most important elements of ITC's work; and initiatives undertaken at a global-level, spanning across a wide range of focus areas, including trade facilitation, non-tariff barriers and e-commerce. We have benefitted from a number of ITC products in this regard – such as ITC's annual flagship publication, the SME Competitiveness Outlook; and e-Ping, which is the joint ITC-WTO-UNDESA initiative. We look forward to the 2017 SME Competitiveness Outlook publication in October this year, and the fruition of the "SME Trade Help Desk" at the end of this year.

We are excited for ITC's road ahead and we wish ITC yet another excellent year.

Thank you.