

## **PRESENTATION BY THE AMBASSADOR OF TAJIKISTAN AT THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

Geneva, 10 July 2018

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to ITC and our donor SECO for another successful year of promoting exports from Tajikistan.

ITC has been supporting Tajikistan since 2002 in the framework of several trade development projects, aimed at developing and fostering the competitiveness of SMEs in the agro-processing as well as textile and clothing sectors, assisting local trade support institutions to improve their capacities and expand service offerings, as well as providing policy advice and capacity building to the Government of Tajikistan in developing sectoral export strategies. ITC also assisted the Government of Tajikistan in the process of the country's accession to the WTO and implementation of WTO membership commitments, as well as implementation of the provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

We very much appreciate that SECO extended ITC's assistance for Tajikistan. In the end of 2017, it approved a new project for Tajikistan and its implementation has already started. Through this new project, ITC supports Tajikistan in enhancing capacities and export competitiveness of enterprises in the textiles and clothing as well as strengthening Tajik trade support institutions. Such external assistance is the only one of its kind in the textiles and clothing sector of Tajikistan. I am confident that this strategic approach to the sector's development will allow us to explore challenges and pursue areas of potential opportunity.

In the framework of the same project, ITC contributes to creation of a conducive trade environment for the Textile and Clothing sector through establishment and operationalization of a National Trade Facilitation Committee and the setup of a Trade Facilitation Portal.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with ITC and SECO in promoting the textiles and clothing sector and building trade related institutional capacities, as well as assistance in WTO post-accession process.