

**Speech of the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan in Switzerland,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations
at Geneva, Switzerland H.E. Mr. Jamshed Khamidov,
in the 51st Joint Advisory Group Meeting**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Dear UNCTAD Secreatry - General Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi,

Dear WTO Director General Mr. Roberto Azevedo,

Dear ITC Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to ITC and our donor SECO for another successful year of cooperation and we are grateful to the ITC for their work in producing the report.

ITC has been supporting Tajikistan since 2002 in the framework of several trade development projects, aimed at development and fostering of SMEs competitiveness in the agro-processing, and 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 the Republic of Tajikistan in developing sectoral export strategies, WTO accession and implementation of WTO membership commitments, as well as implementation of the provisions of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. All above mentioned projects were financed exclusively by the Government of Switzerland.

We continue to benefit from ITC's on-going work, which includes enhancing capacities of the National Trade Facilitation Committee. ITC's support has also focused on enhancing capacities and export competitiveness of enterprises in the textiles and clothing sector. This has been achieved through improvements in sourcing, product design and development, marketing, productivity, quality management practices and by helping us to create business linkages abroad.

We also recognize that the ongoing projects are coming to the end, this year. We hope that our collaboration with ITC and Government of Switzerland will be continued to ensure continuity and sustainability of the capacities built.

Additionally, I would like to point that we are strongly hope ASAP to start working with ITC on the implementation of the project STDF/PG/447 in Tajikistan "Enabling market access for Tajik

agricultural products through improved food safety system” which was approved on 21st March 2017 by STDF Working Group.

We would also like to suggest additional areas of cooperation may also fall under ITC mandate:

- 1) Strengthening the sustainable expansion and diversification of SME exports in the agro-processing sector.
- 2) Enhancing the trade environment and implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Tajikistan, providing further technical assistance to Tajikistan in the area of trade facilitation and trade policy, to:
- 3) Assistance in Destination Management / Tourism both at regional and national levels
- 4) Promote the export and value chain integration of heritage products, thereby contributing to income and employment generation, cultural preservation, and intercultural exchange.

We are ready to discuss new areas and details as jointly search for funding sources.

We are confident that future cooperation and assistance programs will be as fruitful as those of the past.

Thank you, Madam Chair.