

**50<sup>th</sup> Session of ITC Joint Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Intervention by Turkey**  
**(4 July 2016-Geneva)**

**Thank you Mr. Chair,**

On behalf of Turkish delegation, I would like to start by congratulating you as the chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the JAG. I also wish to thank you and your predecessor Ambassador Ms. Patricia O'Brien, the Director-General of the WTO Roberto Azevedo and the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD Johkaim Reiter for the insightful opening remarks.

I also would like to extend my thanks to Mrs. Arancha Gozales, the Executive Director of International Trade Centre, and her staff for the organization of this important meeting and for the reports they prepared.

**Mr. Chair,**

Turkey attaches great importance to its relations with ITC as the joint technical cooperation agency of the WTO and UNCTAD for business aspects of trade and development. We appreciate ITC's efforts in improving its trade relations with the developing countries and LDCs on regional and functional basis. Turkey fully supports the activities and work of ITC that is specifically focused on the following 3 elements:

- i) strengthening the **integration of the business sector** of developing countries and economies in transition into the global economy,
- ii) improving the **performance of trade and investment support institutions** for the benefit of SMEs, and enhancing the abilities of trade support institutions to better support them and,
- iii) improving **international competitiveness of SMEs.**

**Mr. Chair,**

On the occasion of this meeting, I would like to touch briefly on the upcoming Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum (WVEF) 2016, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 1-2 September 2016. The WVEF 2016 is being organized by ITC in cooperation with the Turkish Government and the Women Entrepreneur Association of Turkey, or KAGIDER in short.

The purpose of the Forum is to bring together corporations, governments, trade and investment support institutions on the one hand and women vendors on the other to establish business relationships with a view to improve the conditions

of women entrepreneurs globally and to link women vendors to the markets by providing training to improve their skills and by facilitating meetings with buyers and investors.

I would also like to point out that the previous WVEFs facilitated thousands of business-to-business meetings and resulted in more than US \$50 million worth of commercial transaction agreements. This year, 500 participants are expected to attend the forum.

**Mr. Chair,**

In concluding, I would like to thank Mrs. Arancha Gonzales and her staff once again for all their efforts that further improved and deepened our relations with ITC.

Thank you.