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**International Trade Centre
UN/WTO Joint Advisory Group
UK Statement**

26 June 2015
World Trade Organisation

Dear Chair,
Ambassadors,
Director General Azevedo,
Secretary General Kituyi,
Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you today at my first Joint Advisory Group meeting for the International Trade Centre (ITC).

2015 is an important year for setting the development, environment and trade agenda for the future prosperity of the world. The Financing for Development, Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, and WTO ministerial conferences offer an amazing opportunity for the aid for trade community to champion the role of trade for development.

As a promoter for entrepreneurship in developing countries since 1964, the ITC is and should continue to champion the crucial role of trade as a source of finance for economic development. Analysis by the OECD in 2013 has shown that \$1 in aid for

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trade is associated with an increase in developing countries' exports by \$8. For the poorest countries, the return is \$20.

The ITC's latest annual report (from 2014) depicts an organisation that is going from strength to strength. Expenditure has increased to over US\$88 million per year, up by nearly 13% since 2012. You have met or exceeded many of your corporate strategic targets. For example ITC supported 416 trade support institutions, compared to a planned target of 60; and helped strengthen the export capacity of 2,837 businesses, compared to a target of 2,150.

The 2015 ITC Operational Plan, and biennium Strategic Plan covering 2015-2017 are robust; building on your achievements and lessons learnt from implementation in previous years. For future plans you may want to consider making your targets more ambitious and further aligned with Post 2015 development goals (which are still to be agreed). We are ready to support you to enhance these operational and strategic plans, in order to smooth their review and approval through the relevant committees at the UN in New York, and here at the WTO.

As you know the UK government Department for International Development (DFID) has economic development as a high policy priority, that is why the UK is providing ITC with over £26 million, across 7 years to,

- facilitate trade and investment between East Africa and India;

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- open opportunities for women owned/run businesses to trade internationally;
- help governments and businesses understand and tackle non-tariff barriers to trade; and
- Assist micro and small enterprises in Africa to address trade facilitation bottlenecks.

Despite the challenges of monitoring and evaluating aid for trade programmes, you have been able to achieve impressive results. For example the women and trade programme has contributed to,

- over US\$ 31 million worth of exports being generated by women entrepreneurs; and
- 630 women entrepreneurs reporting improved skills in exporting to markets.

Finally, in line with the independent evaluation of the ITC last year, we would like to see further improvements in ITC's effectiveness and efficiency. I know the ITC leadership are committed to doing this according to the management response to the evaluation recommendations. The UK has full confidence that these recommendations will be implemented, under the guidance of Arancha Gonzalez, her management team and ITC's trade experts who are working tirelessly day in - day out to help businesses in developing countries trade more and prosper.

Thank you

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