

US Statement for ITC Joint Advisory Group July 10, 2017

I want to thank Executive Director González and the ITC team for the work done this year to continue honing ITC's focus on results, improved evaluation and learning in the delivery of effective technical assistance, capacity support, and market intelligence consistent with ITC's mandate to enhance small and medium-sized firms' competitiveness and productivity.

The United States aligns itself with the donor statement delivered by the United Kingdom.

The United States continues to appreciate our own informal consultations with the ITC throughout the year and the opportunity to engage in aspects of ITC's planning, from review of the Operational Plan to various discussions on technical topics.

ITC's commitment to openness and consultation is especially notable. It is an intelligent and thoughtful approach to management in changing times and a difficult funding environment.

The United States has long been a partner of ITC, since 2002, and we are pleased to have been able to expand our partnership with ITC late last year.

In September 2016, we signed a new grant agreement through USAID that will provide a broader base of technical assistance. It will allow our field offices direct access to ITC expertise in order to create new activities that will include combating non-tariff measures, providing e-solutions, and promotion of ITC's Sustainability Marketplace.

Our USAID missions have already taken advantage of this agreement by funding new activities in Bangladesh and Nepal which serve to highlight our expanding collaboration with the ITC.

USAID, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, plans to contribute additional funding into the new grant this month to support SMEs in Central American countries. In partnership with ITC, the United States will work with governments and business associations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to effectively address trade barriers, as well as to provide training to potential exporters in targeted sectors in partnership with U.S. firms in order to expand two-way trade. These activities will be based in and utilize the American network of Small Business Development Centers throughout the region.

We look forward to working with ITC in the year ahead to ensure the organization continues to sharpen its focus and deliver ever more impressive results in support of the SMEs who need it most.

The United States values the ITC's work, as well as the soundness with which it is carried out.

Thank you.