

Remarks by Gib Brown, Development Advisor, U.S. Mission

Informal Session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group

As Prepared for Delivery

Geneva, Switzerland // January 26, 2015

Good afternoon. Thank you Madame Chair for your guidance and the opportunity to speak. Without repeating the efforts of my distinguished colleague from Canada, please allow me to confirm that the United States of America fully supports the donor statement and is pleased with the International Trade Center's Management Response to the independent evaluation with its clear articulation of actions, timelines, and responsible parties.

We would like to thank you Executive Director Gonzalez and your management team for your strong leadership and efforts over the past year, as well as for the work that went into preparing the Management Response. The successful and comprehensive effort to incorporate the recommendations of the Evaluation into ITC management operations is a credit to you and the team you have led. We are particularly encouraged by efforts to strengthen ITC's results-based and program cycle management, to clearly articulate theories of change in ITC's strategic programming, to continue in the Strategic Plan to advance the economic empowerment of women, and above all to focus on impact.

As my colleague from Canada noted, we also look forward to updates on progress in implementing the Management Response and invite greater consultation on future Strategic and Operational Plans.

The U.S. is pleased to have recently strengthened its partnership with ITC through a Middle East and North Africa regional project to address Non-Tariff

Measures that create obstacles to trade and reduce competitiveness and an ethical fashion project in Haiti to assist artisans and microproducers, most of whom are female, to access higher value global fashion markets. We look forward to working with you on these activities and continuing to coordinate and leverage each other's Aid-for-Trade efforts.

In the year to come, we look forward to working closely with partner nations, Executive Director Gonzalez, and ITC staff to ensure the organization continues to fulfill its mandate in an effective and efficient manner.

Thank you.