

Statement of Ukraine
at the 55th Joint Advisory Group meeting
of the International Trade Centre
(2 November 2021)

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Good afternoon, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to start by joining others in congratulating you Chair on your appointment, as well as by acknowledging efforts of ITC's team in organizing this 55th Session of the Joint Advisory Group and the distinguished speakers for their presentations and statements delivered.

We would also like to thank ITC's Executive Director and her team for presenting a comprehensive report on the work of the organization along with the strategic plan for the next three years. We welcome the diverse profiles of the projects presented in the annual report in terms of both product coverage and regions present.

We would like to reconfirm our appreciation of efforts undertaken by ITC in promoting economic development, sustainable trade and women economic empowerment as well as thank the donors for their continuous support, especially in times of turbulence. We would also like to acknowledge useful reports, publications and tools developed and maintained by ITC.

Ukraine has been benefiting from a long-standing and successful cooperation with ITC and particularly Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia with the help of donors for many years. As of this year, three projects are being implemented by ITC in Ukraine with the funding provided by the EU and Sweden.

As Ukraine is building up and strengthening its economic potential, we would like to underscore the positive contributions of ITC's projects to these efforts.

In particular, more than 150 beneficiary companies within the project 'Linking Ukrainian SMEs in the fruits and vegetables sector' in place since 2016 has reported a 35% growth in sales both domestically and internationally, along with ability to diversify and explore new markets. In this regard, we would also like to welcome the implementation of the Phase II of the project launched earlier this year.

Another project 'The EaP Trade Helpdesk' implemented under EU4Business regional initiative launched this year has already showed some positive contribution and we expect even more results towards the end of the year with the finalization of the Eastern Partnership trade information portal.

We would also like to acknowledge another project implemented as a part of the regional "Ready to Trade EU4Business initiative". For the past 4 years, ITC's skilled team has provided necessary support and capacity building activities for SMES in the berry and apparel sectors, facilitated participation in the trade fairs as well as establishment of the first professional cooperative of blueberry producers in Ukraine.

With such successful record, Ukraine is looking forward to continuing its cooperation with ITC and the donors so as to further strengthen trade potential of traditional and new sectors of economy, help Ukrainian MSMEs to reach their full potential and explore new venues of cooperation on issues such as trade and gender, green economy and sustainable development.

We would also like support ITC's ambitions to transform and build a more coherent and impactful supporting system as announced earlier today.

In closing, we would like to commend the work and commitment of ITC and its team, as well as the aspirations of ITC's Executive Director.

We wish ITC all the success in its transformation and implementation of plans in the upcoming years.