

Statement by Yemen delegation

ITC JAG 51st. session (10 July 2017)

At the outset, Madam Chairperson, I take this opportunity to congratulate you for presiding over this 51st. JAG session. Allow me also to express our appreciation to ITC, WTO and UNCTAD for their longstanding support extended to country members, including Yemen, through enhanced cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building. Furthermore, Yemen delegation would like to commend the ITC Executive Director, Madam Arancha Gonzalez, and the entire staff of ITC for a successful preparation of the 2016 annual report and other related JAG documents, including ITC's Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Madam chair, Yemen firmly believes in the significant role of ITC to assist achieving sustainable development in developing and Least Developed Countries, through exports related activities, supporting and delivering projects with emphasis on achieving competitiveness and lasting trade impact. We equally appreciate the achievements and performance of ITC, and its efforts on capacity building and technical assistance, strengthening Trade Support Institutions, building export capacity of SMEs, and mainstreaming inclusiveness and sustainability.

Madam chair, Yemen as an Arab LDC, unfortunately, is going through a very difficult time due to severe hardship caused by a coup d'état since 21st. September 2014. The legitimate Government is working hand-in-

hand with the Arab Coalition, led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to restore normality to the country. We look forward to resume cooperation with ITC as soon as the ashes of the conflict settle down. A starting point would be the launching of the National Export Strategy document, which is still in its draft form. We hope to finalize that matter and successfully implement the strategy accordingly. We equally anticipate similar collaboration with ITC, WTO and UNCTAD on operationalizing Yemen membership in WTO, including harvesting benefits and delivering on Yemen commitments. We foresee building core capacities in the areas of export development, establishing sound partnership between Public and Private Sectors, help SMEs to integrate into global value chains, and enhancing Yemen regional and global integration.

Madam chair, Yemen delegation was keen on seizing this opportunity to express our support to ITC work and its continued emphasis on maximizing efficiency and outcomes. We welcome the ITC Evaluation report and priorities, and in particular, we request further assistance to LDCs in post-conflict situations as the case in Yemen. Equally, we would like to express our deep appreciation to the donor community for its support to ITC's plans and programs. And further encourage them to maintain a high level of support during the next cycle of the Strategic Plan activities.

Thank you