

**The Joint Advisory Group Meeting  
11 to 12 June 2014**

**Chairperson,  
Distinguished participants  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Zambia wishes to join other delegations in <sup>Congratulating ITC for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
I would also like to</sup> thanking the ITC Secretariat for the comprehensive annual report of 2014, the operational plan for 2014 and beyond and the biennium budget for 2014 – 2015.

From the outset, Zambia wishes to commend ITC for your tireless effort over the past fifty years, in assisting developing and least developed countries build their competitiveness.

Your specific and focused support to building capacities of trade and investment support institutions, assisting SMEs with trade and market intelligence in order to enhance their competitiveness and the promotion and mainstreaming of inclusive and green trade <sup>among other interventions,</sup> has no doubt had a tangible impact on countries that have benefited from your programmes over the past fifty years.

Through ITC work, in particular, the Programme for building African Capacity for Trade (PACT II), a number of SMEs in Africa have tapped into the benefits associated with export trade, as witnessed by the US \$ 5 million expansion in new export orders generated by through this programme. Other tangible benefits include enhanced export sales of African cotton to the Asian market to the tune of US \$2.7 million, and the conclusion of export contracts between 14 African countries and three Mekong countries in the cashew nut, rice and cotton sectors, worth US \$ 150 million;

~~Other benefits include~~ the expansion of the ethical fashion industry in West Africa and enhanced skills in processing and making leather products in several countries, including Zambia, that have benefited from ITC support, As highlighted in your report,

Your support remains valuable in linking enterprises in developing countries to global supply chains with the ultimate objective of creating sustainable jobs and economic development.

Last but not least, Zambia wishes to thank all cooperating partners that have supported ITC's activities through their financial contributions since its inception in 1964. Your continued support to assisting developing and least developed countries build their competitiveness through ITC remains valuable. I therefore wish to call on all partners to contribute generously to the 2014-2015 biennium budget.

*to ensure ITC deliver transformational support to the benefit of developing and least developed countries*