



**Statement delivered by Zambia at the 52nd International Trade Centre Joint
Advisory Group Meeting, 10th July 2018**

Thank you **Mr. Chair** for giving me the floor.

My delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as chair of the 52nd Session of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre.

My delegation wishes to thank you and your predecessor H.E Ms. Frances Mary Lisson, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the World Trade Organization, as well as H.E. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary General of UNCTAD, Mr Fred Agah, the Deputy Director General of the WTO for your opening remarks.

We also wish to thank Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of the ITC and her team for their Report on ITC activities undertaken since the last Meeting of the Joint Advisory Group as well as for their dedication to the important work of ITC.

Mr. Chair, Zambia greatly values its long standing technical cooperation with ITC which has over the years positively contributed towards Zambia's development efforts. Some of the notable work ITC has undertaken in Zambia include in areas such as the strengthening of competitiveness of many Small Businesses by enhancing their capacity towards higher value added production. ITC has also played an important role in increasing the capacity of trade supporting institutions in Zambia such as the Zambia Development Agency and the Citizen's Economic Empowerment Commission.

Similarly, **Mr. Chair**, ITC worked closely with Government and facilitated Zambia's participation at the SheTrades Global event held in Liverpool UK in June this year. Her Excellency, the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia, Madam Esther Lungu, who I must

mention is a strong advocate for women economic empowerment, was one of the high-level participants.

ITC is also collaborating with the Government towards the hosting of ITC's annual flagship event, the World Export Development Forum. In that regard, I would like to confirm that Zambia will be hosting the 18th Edition of the event which will be held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka Zambia from 11th to 12th September 2018. **Mr. Chair**, I invite everyone to make a note of the date in their dairies and I hope they will be able to join us in Lusaka for the Forum.

The Forum will be held under the theme "Scaling up through Trade: Skill – innovate – connect". This theme reflects the need to scale up efforts to reach trade-led development through skill development for jobs. Key topics that will be covered include the following: **(1) Scaling up job creation; (2) trade facilitation and regional integration; (3) reducing risks and increasing returns in agriculture and agribusiness; (4) SME competitiveness in Africa; green finance; and (5) promoting innovation.**

The Zambia chapter of the She-Trades initiative will be launched during the Forum. There will also be Business to Business meetings that will take place on 10th and 11th September as well as an exhibition that will run on the margins of the Forum from 10th to 12th and will feature in excess of a 100 companies.

In conclusion **Mr. Chair**, as can be seen, ITC is a key resource to our development efforts and its support has continued to grow from strengthen to strengthen over the years. Therefore I wish to end by underscoring Zambia's appreciation of ITC's ongoing support and cooperation.

I Thank You.