

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY ZIMBABWE AT THE 50TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE'S JOINT ADVISORY GROUP: 4 JULY 2016.

Thank you Mr Chairman

Let me begin by congratulating you Ambassador Negash Kebret Batora, on your assumption of the Chair of the 50th Session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group. I also wish to pay tribute to the chair of the 49th Session, Ambassador Patricia O' Brien for successfully steering this last session.

My delegation would like to thank the Director General of the WTO, Roberto Azevedo, UNCTAD Secretary General, Mukhisa Kituyi and the ITC's Executive Director, Ms Arancha Gonzalez for their insightful remarks.

I am delighted to note that the ITC delivered impressive results in terms of provision of technical assistance and capacity building interventions in developing countries during the 2014/2015 biennium. These interventions continue to be more and more innovative, demand driven and inclusive. I therefore have no doubt that this will have a positive impact on developing countries' economies.

Mr Chairman, to illustrate, let me take this opportunity to give you an overview of the ITC programs in Zimbabwe:

Under the Trade and Private Sector Development program launched in 2014 and funded by the European Union, the country developed the Zimbabwe Information Trade Portal which is an online, one- stop platform where Zimbabwean

companies are accessing information on trade, investment and tourism for purposes of marketing their products and services.

The Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) has been assisted to set up a chromatography laboratory to increase capacity to test and certify agro-foods for exports. SAZ has also been accredited with the Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems-OHSMS. This accreditation allows SAZ to issue safety management certificates.

Further to this the ITC has provided trade and investment related capacity building to Government Departments, Trade and Investment Institutions including SMEs and the private sector in Zimbabwe. This includes training on TBT, SPS and rules of origin to build the capacity of the country to implement the interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU.

Under the Aim for Results program, ZimTrade has been assisted to enhance performance in results management and be able to identify areas for improvement.

Further to the implementation of current programs, the ITC launched a program to strengthen our national SPS institutional framework last month. ITC is also formulating and designing an agriculture productivity and trade development program that will assist the country to further commercialise agricultural productivity towards improving food security and increasing exports in the region and beyond.

We welcome this program which will target agriculture and rural development to ensure inclusive economic growth. As you might be aware that over 70% of our population lives in the rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The program will also be private sector led. To this end, my

delegation is seeking agro-business investment and business partnerships to make this program a success.

The ITC programs will undoubtedly promote increased visibility and competitiveness of Zimbabwean companies, products and services, enhance participation of SMES in trade, increase investment opportunities and exports and this will result in job creation and inclusive economic growth. It would therefore be remiss of me, Mr Chairman, if I did not thank the ITC, the EU and UNCTAD for their effective support. Going forward I call for the continued support to the ITC from our development partners to enable it to continue carrying out this invaluable work.

Let me conclude by thanking the ITC for being a worthy and practical agency of UNCTAD and WTO that delivers results as we work to make trade advance development.

I thank you.