



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
delivered by Mr. Marian Bunescu, First Secretary,
at the 49th Session of the International Trade Centre
Joint Advisory Group**

(Geneva, 26 June 2015)

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Madame Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by congratulating Ambassador O'Brien on her election as the Chair of the 49th session of the Joint Advisory Group. I would also like to thank Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez for her leadership and the work of her team over the past year, as well as for the excellent preparations of the current session of the JAG.

Madame Arancha Gonzalez,

My delegation thanks the ITC Secretariat for the preparation of the Annual Report, which captures the ITC's work, the results achieved and the impact of ITC's projects on the ground. We are pleased to note that the technical assistance capacity building and market intelligence delivered by ITC in 2014 has increased by 35% compared to the year before. This is a clear indication of the fact that ITC's work and performance is of top quality and is much needed and appreciated.

ITC's trade-related technical assistance has proved to be very helpful in assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition increase trade and investment through the development of the private sector and trade support institutions. The special focus of ITC's activities in providing entrepreneurial opportunities for women, young people and poor communities is also to be commended.

We also support the demand-driven approach which guides the effective implementation of the ITC's mandate. The project initiatives being tailored to address the specific needs of the countries is instrumental in providing technical assistance and expertise in the areas where Governments are in most need of targeted support.

Madame Chair,

In light of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, which entered into force in September 2014, our Government is committed to removing all barriers to cross-border trade and integrating Moldovan companies, especially the small and medium enterprises, into the European economic flow of goods and services. In order for our businesses to best benefit from it, the Government endeavours to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and address specific constraints at the national, institutional and enterprise levels.

We are very interested in broadening our specific cooperation with ITC. In this context, my delegation is very pleased to note that 2014 was a very productive year for the ITC-Moldova cooperation. In particular, a number of ITC-led initiatives have been launched with a view to enhance SME's export competitiveness and cross-border capacities, as well as strengthen the national institutional capacities and framework for trade.

We hope that with the support of the development partners these initiatives will spring up into concrete and tangible projects.

To conclude, the Republic of Moldova looks forward to continue working closely with ITC and reaffirms its continued support to ITC's overall mission to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

I thank you.