

ITC Joint Advisory Group,

September 13th, 2022

Statement by Germany

Thank you Chair,

Madam Executive Director,

Deputy Director General Zhang,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany aligns itself fully with the Donor's Group Statement which was held by South Korea as well as with the statement that was held by the EU. My additional remarks come from Germany in its national capacity.

Importance of work in General

Trade is a driver for development. It can be a crucial lever for implementing the 2030 Agenda: it can contribute to the eradication of poverty, to the creation of decent work, responsible consumption and production and for fighting the climate change and its impacts.

As ED Coke-Hamilton has put it so well during the Aid for Trade Global Review: "Aid for Trade is about making trade happen." **The work of ITC is crucial for making sustainable trade for MSMEs in developing countries happen. And it is crucial for supporting a just transition to needed low-carbon and climate resilient economic and trading systems.**

German contribution

Germany highly values the work and achievements of ITC in the field of trade –related technical assistance. **Being the second biggest bilateral donor for Aid for Trade,** Germany has also been a long-standing supporter of the ITC, **contributing both with earmarked and un-earmarked funding.**

Allow me to flag one programme of our joint cooperation, the "**Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) programme**": The "T4SD programme" is an integral part of our partnership with the ITC, providing valuable data on voluntary sustainability standards for numerous of our instruments like the Green Button. With these data we can offer consumers and companies highly needed, credible orientation on how they themselves can contribute to a sustainable future. Furthermore, the collaboration of the T4SD programme with other key

actors like the OECD allows us to jointly develop and support hands-on solutions to current political discussions, such as the role of voluntary sustainability standards in corporate due diligence. We are looking forward to future cooperation in this field.

Also in areas like Women's Economic Empowerment with the great SheTrades Programme, E-Commerce or Trade facilitation, to name a few, Germany supports the work of ITC. ITCs strategic priorities with greening trade, regional integration, digitalisation and gender equality fit well with priorities that Germany has defined within its Aid for Trade agenda, making ITC an important partner for investments in a better future.

Outlook

To conclude, allow me to reiterate Germany full support of ITC's work and its future ambitions. ITC's work is indispensable to support our global partners to benefit from the multilateral trading system and enables to take further necessary steps for reaching the Agenda 2030 goals.