



PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN TO THE WTO

Pakistan statement at the 54TH Session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the ITC

Thank you Chair,

Excellencies,

Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi

Deputy Director-General of the WTO, Mr. Yonov Frederick Agah

Executive Director of the ITC, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton

Dear colleagues,

Good afternoon,

I wish to join the others in thanking the outgoing Chair of the Joint Advisory Group and welcoming the incoming Chair.

I would also like to congratulate Ms Pamela Coke-Hamilton for her appointment as the Executive Director of the ITC. I wish to assure you, Madam, of Pakistan's readiness to support you and your team.

As we gather today to review the ITC activities in 2019, we wish to commend the work carried out by the ITC during this year. It is remarkable what ITC has achieved during the year 2019 and continues to do so in 2020, despite the global health and economic challenges.

We are happy to note that the activities were designed in a way to specifically contribute to the achievement of ten important Sustainable Development Goals¹. In the current context, as developing countries become threatened by the outfall of the current health crisis, ITC projects of previous years are proving more significant. Surely, developing countries are relatively better placed to tackle the new challenges.

As the global economy continues to evolve in the backdrop of the multiple crises, the support of the ITC with more specific and tailor-made efforts will become potentially critical in helping poorer economies get back on their feet.

I am happy to report that Pakistan's continued collaboration with the ITC's technical assistance projects. Presently, the Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress project (GRASP) is helping some of the remotest areas in Pakistan develop Agricultural capacities. The Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade Programme (ReMIT) has also been recently launched and will provide assistance in areas such as Trade Facilitation and export development. Pakistan would like to thank the donors for these projects along with the ITC, whose financial support is crucial in making this assistance possible.

It is, of course, up to the partner countries to upscale and sustain ITC projects but the design, cost efficiency and impact of such programs that partly determines sustainability. Thus, it becomes increasingly important for all partners of ITC to have objective Third Party impact assessments of past projects. This is key for a learning organization and for maintaining fruitful partnerships.

¹ Page 6 of the Annual report (SDGs 8, 17, 10, 2, 1,5, 9, 4, 12, and 16)



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At the end, we also wish all the best to the ITC in all its future work and activities, and in particular we give our best wishes to the new Executive Director and assure her of Pakistan's support.....Thank you Chair