

Statement by the Republic of Korea
56th Annual Session of the Joint Advisory Group of
International Trade Centre
(13 September, 2022)

Madam Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to start by thanking the outgoing Chair, H.E. Ambassador Bekkers of the Netherlands and by offering congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Dwarka-Canabady as Chair of the 56th Session. Korea also thanks Executive Director Coke-Hamilton for her able leadership and the Secretariat for preparing the Annual Report.

The Republic of Korea associates itself with the donors' statement delivered by my Ambassador. My intervention will therefore be focused on the growing Aid for Trade partnership between Korea and ITC.

Ours is a partnership that has been making significant strides over the last year and a half.

First, Korea and ITC are expanding the ambit of our collaboration from making trade more inclusive for women, to helping trade become greener and more inclusive for youth. This green and inclusive trajectory is very well aligned with the Executive Director's strategic vision for 2022-2025. Building on our existing joint project to help West African women farmers connect to international markets through SheTrades West Africa, and the sharing of our gender perspective on trade through SheTrades Outlook, we inaugurated two additional multi-million dollar projects earlier this year. One supports farmers in Uganda by making agribusiness more climate resilient. Another incubates 1,000 young entrepreneurs and helps improve the startup ecosystem in the same country. We thank the Deputy Executive Director Dorothy Tembo for personally gracing the launching events for these two projects with her presence and thank members of the ITC staff for their tireless commitment to enhancing our cooperation.

Second, we have been enjoying growing high-level exchanges, whether in Sorrento on the margins of the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting or here in Geneva during the Friends of ITC meeting during MC-12 and the Aid for Trade Global Review. Such interactions help strengthen high-level confidence in the value of our partnership.

Third, Korea has had the privilege of serving as donor coordinator this year. The experience has helped Korea become more attuned to the great lengths to which ITC goes to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in all its work. It has also made us ever more appreciative of the important aid for trade contributions of other fellow donors through ITC. I wish to close by expressing deep appreciation to other donor members for their support and encouragement to Korea's coordinating role this year.

Thank you.

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