

**Statement by Representative of Permanent Mission of
Ethiopia to the United Nations Office at Geneva on the 57th
session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the
International Trade Centre (ITC)**

Chair of the 57th Session: H.E. Ms.Nadia Theodore,
ITC Executive Director, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

The Ethiopian delegation would like to add its voice to those who did congratulate you for assuming the chair of this 57th session of annual Joint Advisory Group meeting.

I would like to thank ITC, WTO and UNCTAD for convening this meeting aimed at examining the activities and achievements of the ITC and its future plan which are very relevant to developing countries.

I would like also thank speakers who spoke before me; for the useful, important and pertinent information and issues.

Ethiopia commends ITC for the excellent work it has done throughout the years, especially in 2022 and we acknowledge the critical role that the ITC plays in fostering global economic growth, enhancing trade capacities, and promoting sustainable development of developing countries.

ITC and has been an important partner of Ethiopia. We are very grateful ITCs and collaborators support for Ethiopia through ITC's Netherlands Trust

Fund 5 programme which is designed to contribute to decent jobs and improved livelihoods in the agribusiness, agritech and digital technology sectors. Support has also ongoing in the area of COMESA Cross border trade initiative Project.

The Programme and project until now produce results in the launch of the Amharic version of the Coffee Guidebook in May 2023, trained more than 9,000 small coffee farmers and other stakeholders, the publication of first IT & Business Process Outsourcing directory, establishment of the Ethiopia Outsourcing Association, Establishment cross border traders' associations and many more.

While Ethiopia has made significant strides in various economic sectors, we are also cognizant of the existing challenges that hinder our full participation in the global trade arena.

Ethiopia hopes to advance its relationship with the ITC in the coming years particularly on issues like Ethiopian accession to the WTO, Export diversification including through She Trade Initiatives and electronic commerce for SMEs.

In conclusion, Ethiopia reaffirms its commitment to the objectives and principles of the ITC and expresses its readiness to actively contribute to the Joint Advisory Group's endeavors.

Finally, my delegation expresses our deep thanks and gratitude to Ms.Pamela, ITC Executive Director, for her able leadership and to all ITC staffs for the achievements made.

Thank you for your kind attention.