

**Statement of Ukraine at the 53rd Joint Advisory Group meeting of
the International Trade Centre**
(Geneva, Switzerland, 2 July 2019)

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Good afternoon, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

- Let me start by joining others in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chair and thank the International Trade Centre (ITC) for organizing this 53rd Session of the Joint Advisory Group and the distinguished speakers for their presentations and statements.
- We thank Ms. Arancha Gonzalez and her team for the presentation of a comprehensive report on the work of the organization in the course of the last year.
- We reconfirm our appreciation of all efforts undertaken by ITC in promoting economic development, sustainable trade and women empowerment.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

- At the outset, Ukraine would like to thank ITC and the donors, in particular the European Union, GIZ, the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine, as well as the United States for their continuous support in promoting Ukraine's exports and for providing assistance in accessing new markets.
- We have heard today a lot about ITC's cooperation with countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and we would like to shed some light on the work of ITC in Ukraine.

On ITC projects:

- ITC and Ukraine have had a long-standing and successful cooperation for many years, which has intensified starting from 2016. ITC opened two project offices on the territory of Ukraine: one in Kyiv and one in the South - in the city of Kherson; and there are three key projects that were being implemented.
 - First, **“Linking Ukrainian SMEs in the fruits and vegetables sector to global and domestic markets and value chains”** (with project office in Kherson) helps Ukrainian SMEs in respective sector to integrate into domestic and global value chains and access new markets by assisting in production of goods according to the market requirements, improving the capacities of business support organizations (BSOs) to provide quality business support services, and by linking SMEs to target markets, with a focus on the EU. As a result, in 2018 the project

beneficiary companies increased their direct export to the EU and received new access to markets of China and the United Arab Emirates.

- Second project that we would like to mention today is within the “**Eastern Partnership: Ready to Trade – an EU4Business initiative**” (*with project office in Kyiv*) that entered the active phase in 2018. The project assists SMEs from Eastern Partnership countries, including Ukraine, in producing value-added goods in accordance with international and EU market requirements, while linking them with foreign buyers within the global value chains. In Ukraine this initiative is focused on berries sector.
- Finally, ITC has also assisted Ukraine in the development of its **National Export Strategy**. In 2017, based on ITC methodology, the Strategic Trade Development Roadmap (STDR) was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine with the assistance of private sector representatives, international and national experts. In 2018, in continuation of Ukraine’s efforts to embrace opportunities for its export development in a practical manner, increase and diversify exports, the process of preparation of nine sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies has been launched and is currently being finalized.

On future cooperation:

- Ukraine appreciates the ITC’s partnership and is looking forward to continuing its cooperation with ITC and the donors so as to explore trade potential of traditional and new sectors of economy and help Ukrainian MSMEs to reach their full potential in the global market. We are also interested in the experience that ITC can provide on such cross-cutting issues as quality management and trade facilitation.

Concluding remarks:

- In conclusion, we commend ITC’s team for its expertise and commitment in providing support to Ukraine’s economic development and wish all the success in implementation of its plans for the upcoming years.