

Thank you Chairman,

I am making this statement on behalf of Ambassador Canabady, who had to run out because of other commitments.

Thank you Ambassador Bekkers and we congratulate you; please be assured of our support during your chairmanship.

We also thank Ambassador Molokomme of Botswana for being an excellent Chair and as Executive Director said earlier, Ambassador Molokomme is indeed a source of wisdom; the ITC chair continues to serve us well. It has a historical role as regards supporting MSMEs in developing countries.

The role of the ITC at this stage for us will be to help MSMEs to build back better, fairer and greener as the COP 26 is under way. We believe that ITC can only back stop more and more green measures in his projects as we look to the future.

Again, we commend the ITC for the work done for the MSMEs, micro, small Medium, enterprises. We also commend ITC for the way its programmes are articulated and the way they interlock with each other and support each other. We are impressed that despite the Pandemic, the Fast Track Tech programme has reached to some 128 countries and generated USD 800,000 for start-ups in Africa only. Not enough, but quite impressive against a background of Epidemic.

We believe that we should join hands with others to generate more funding possibilities for start-ups. The Fast Track Tech also interlocks with the Africa Trade Observatory dashboard as it could pinpoint areas where technology would make a difference, especially in the context of the coming AfCFTA.

There are currently 1 million users on the dashboard and we should be aiming a 10-fold more figure in the future.

We would also like to see greater closeness with the Africa Competitiveness Programme and need to place sustainability at the heart of all of this.

The interlocking of all these programmes gives the direction of coherence of actions so that we can act more in a smooth manner as regards to competitiveness and women advancement. The ITC is already making difference in the lives of women.

As Ms. Coke-Hamilton said, the ITC must continue delivering results and come up with innovative ideas.

Mauritius has proposed this before and we do believe that SheTrades and other programmes together could lead to a new programme of outreaching and the patented technology that would be used to support MSMEs.

We know we would require more resources and financial aid and we thank the donor across the Globe for this.

As conclusion Chair, we would like to thank you and thank the Executive Director of the ITC on which we place our full trust and support in the future.

Thank you.