

## **STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

### **57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2023, 3 PM., ROOM S1, WTO**

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Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. Please allow me to deliver Malaysia's statement on behalf of Ambassador Syahril Ghazali, who has to attend another important meeting at the same time today.

1. Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude on the opportunity to join the ITC's 57<sup>th</sup> Joint Advisory Group Meeting and we would like to congratulate ITC for another productive year in 2022.
2. Malaysia recognises the ITC and European Union as our important partners, hence we applaud the EU's continued commitment through ARISE Plus Malaysia trade-related technical assistance (TRTA), particularly in the aspects of trade policies formulation, quality infrastructure system and sustainable agriculture practices. As a key partner in implementing the projects, I must underscore our appreciation to the ITC team for their full cooperation rendered to the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and other domestic stakeholders.
3. On this note, I wish to highlight that the on-going ARISE Plus Malaysia project, which spans from the period between 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2024, are now entering the final phase. It is important to note that the project conducted, has helped Malaysia to:

- i.) increase and enhance our respective officials' competitiveness, particularly in formulating robust trade and investment policies;
- ii.) improve and assist Malaysia in developing a high-quality infrastructure system that will contribute to the country's sustainable development and effective participation in international trade; and
- iii.) strengthen national and regional agricultural supply chains by promoting sustainable and internationally quality-compliant practices in the agri-food and fisheries sectors.

4. In our assessment, the project journey had not been easy especially during the first half of the project phase, with much of the trainings and programmes were conducted virtually due to the pandemic restrictions. Great synergies continue to reap in the second half of the project as more in person events and trainings were conducted in the year of 2022 onwards.

5. Furthermore, from our observation, the targeted and specific workshops related to policy formulation to align with international commitments such as exposure to the most recent trends in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), investment treaties, improvement to the rules of origin mechanism, e-commerce regulatory framework, standards certification or mutual recognition, as well as promoting sustainable agricultural industry, have been complementary to the on-going economic integration efforts by Malaysia.

Chair and colleagues,

6. Aside from government officials, ITC had also reached out to wider stakeholders in the private sector, particularly from the Malaysian SMEs in creating greater awareness over standards and compliance requirements for expanding their business in the EU markets. These extensive engagements beyond government institutions have contributed significantly in facilitating Malaysian companies to grow and involve in the global supply chain.

7. In conclusion, once again, we would like to record our appreciation to ITC for all the hard work and commitment, and Malaysia has learned a lot from the experts who have demonstrated high level of professionalism in delivering this project.

8. Last but not least, we look forward to engaging more with the EU, and the ARISE Plus Project exemplifies our long-standing bilateral partnership that has benefited both parties. Thank you.