

**58th Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting of the International Trade Center
On 25th June 2024
Statement by the Delegation of Sri Lanka**

Thank you Chair, for giving me the floor.

Sri Lanka wish to express its appreciation for the outstanding work done by the ITC in 2023. This year, once again, the ITC has been a beacon of hope and resilience, empowering the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Mr. Chair, Sri Lanka has been a proud partner and beneficiary of the ITC's trade-related technical assistance since its inception in 1964. The success stories born from our partnership with the ITC are numerous and tangible. They are demonstrably adding value to Sri Lanka's economic recovery process.

Mr. Chair, let me highlight few examples of successful digitalization initiatives in Sri Lanka supported by the ITC. The newly established e-Certificate of Origin System has streamlined the process, resulting in a staggering 93% reduction in processing time and significant cost savings for businesses.

Collaborating with the ITC, National Plant Quarantine Service has implemented e-payment gateway, where a 94% reduction in payment processing time was achieved.

Further ITC has supported digitalizing the Registration & Monitoring of Organic Agriculture-Related Stakeholders at Export Development Board and development of a Monitoring Tool of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement for the National Trade Facilitation Committee

Mr. Chair, ITC's dedication and tireless efforts have been well-recognized in Sri Lanka. As a testament to this appreciation and our commitment to this partnership, I am honored to mention that His Excellency the President himself inaugurated the e-CoO project last year.

I am also delighted to place on record, last week, the DoC eCoO system won the SLASSCOM National Winner Award in the best innovation project in government as well as the Provincial Winner Award.

Mr. Chair, we are tremendously enthusiastic about the programs planned for Sri Lanka from 2024 onwards. Continuation of the many trade facilitation projects, the she-trades hub initiative, green and sustainability assistance, and other competitiveness-enhancing projects would undoubtedly be game-changing support for Sri Lanka at this critical juncture.

My delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to all donors for their invaluable financial contributions. Sri Lanka looks forward to continued assistance, alongside the technical expertise of the ITC.

In conclusion, I would like to request members to watch a brief video clip on the great activities that we have undertaken in Sri Lanka with the support of our donors and the ITC.

I thank You, Chair.