



**Statement of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the
Meeting of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
Fifty-second session**

Delivered by Mrs. Kamala Huseynli-Abishova

10 July 2018

We would like to join other delegations in congratulating ITC on its work.

As a country whose territory was historically part of the ancient Great Silk Road we believe that trade has always been and will continue to be the enabler of development and exchange of not only goods but also knowledge.

Today, with means and tools at our disposal we must strive to make trade more sustainable, predictable, inclusive and beneficial for all. Trade must be a win-win game played by equal partners based on mutual respect and we appreciate the efforts of ITC to this end.

We believe that the development of transport infrastructure is important enabler of trade. We have launched a number of strategic infrastructure projects with the aim to unlock the transit and thus the trade potential of our region. Those projects are becoming part of other regional initiatives such as China's Belt and Road Initiative.

We will continue to mobilize more resources to increase our share in global and regional trade and to improve our logistics and transport infrastructure. Last year we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ITC to assist Azerbaijan in implementing the activities under the 'Eastern Partnership: Ready to Trade – an EU4Business Initiative'. We thus look forward to engage closer with ITC to further unlock our trade potential.

The global achievements in trade obtained with the support of tools and databases developed under ITC are therefore exciting and beneficial. We particularly welcome the initiatives aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs.

We request ITC to closely monitor the use of these valuable tools and databases aimed at facilitating global trade and prevent any misuse aimed at misleading the global community and hindering trade cooperation based on mutual respect.

I thank you.