

**Statement delivered by H. E. Chad Blackman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados in Geneva at the 53rd Meeting of the International Trade Centre's Joint Advisory Group**

**2 July, 2019**

Madam Chair,  
Executive Director,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Barbados wishes to associate with the statement delivered by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the CARICOM Group.

At the outset Barbados wishes to congratulate you Madam Chair, on your appointment as Chair of the International Trade Centre's Joint Advisory Group (JAG). We look forward to working with you over the next year. Barbados would also wish to recognise the work of the delegation of Costa Rica for their work contribution at the helm over the last year.

Madam Chair.

Barbados is pleased to take part in this fifty-third meeting of the Joint Advisory Group and to be able to reflect on the many achievements of the ITC over the last year as well as to look at the opportunities and challenges ahead. We are cognizant of the context under which the ITC will need to develop its programmes while seeking to ensure that trade is more inclusive for all. We therefore wish them every continued success in their work.

Barbados thanks the ITC for its expert technical assistance and capacity building in the Caribbean region with regard to revitalising the coconut industry and which seeks to maximise on the benefits extracted from the industry as well as increase the scale and competitiveness along each aspect of the coconut value chain.

Barbados, a direct beneficiary of this project, looks forward to its second phase which will look at climate smart agriculture. This will be a critical for Barbados and the other small island states in the Caribbean and the Pacific for which the impact of climate change threatens to alter irreparably the way in which we live, the way that we trade and poses a threat to our food security and livelihoods.

Madam Chair.

As we view the challenges ahead and seek to develop our micro and small business sector, we believe that it will be even more critical for the ITC to play an increasing role in the trade and development architecture in Geneva. Barbados hopes to advance its relationship with the ITC in 2019 particularly on issues like electronic commerce for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In concluding Madam Chair, Barbados wishes you a fruitful 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting and wish the ITC well.

Thank you very much.

Permanent Mission of Barbados at Geneva

2 July 2019