

ITC Jag - Statement by Germany - 10 July 2017

Madam Chair,

Germany aligns itself with the statement made by the UK in its role as donor coordinator.

Let me start by thanking the Executive Director and the entire ITC staff for the excellent work performed and the results achieved in the year 2016.

Let me just mention some of the highlights:

The ITC's annual flagship publication, the SME Competitiveness Outlook, focused in 2016 on standards and regulations and contained first-class analysis and important recommendations for both policy makers and entrepreneurs.

We also highly welcome the continued work under the Trade for Sustainable Development program (T4SD) with its StandardsMap database, which helps SMEs to better understand standards relevant for them and use the opportunities to integrate into sustainable value chains.

We also continue to appreciate the public goods nature of many of ITC's products, reaching from its databases to its online training courses, which allows ITC to reach MSMEs, no matter where they are located.

From the Executive Director we also heard about the strong focus on sustainability in ITC's operations, and the work of the Ethical Fashion Initiative in supporting the establishment of a cooperative in Nairobi, which is by now self-sustaining, is an excellent example for this.

ITC also continues to do essential foundational work in strengthening the performance of Export Promotion agencies, enabling them to better serve the private sector and providing a fundament for the implementation other ITC programmes, including in the priority areas of migration and gender.

As the High-level Political Forum is meeting this week in New York to take stock of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we also would like to commend ITC for the strong grounding of ITC's work in the Sustainable Development Goal and look forward to the development ITC's next Strategic Plan – the first one to be fully aligned with the SDGs.

Tomorrow's Global Review of Aid for Trade will see the launch of Germany's revised Aid-for-Trade strategy. Germany looks forward to continue to work with ITC under our new strategy to ensure that MSMEs can use the opportunities global trade offers to them to become drivers for sustainable development.

In closing, I am pleased to announce that Germany will continue its financial support to ITC and that we will provide an additional 1,9 Mio. EUR under the ITC Trust Fund Window 1 for the year 2018.

I thank you, Madam Chair.