



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS & PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE ET MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Statement by Delegation of Mauritius
at the
52nd Joint Advisory Group Meeting
10 July 2018

Chairperson,

I am making this statement on behalf of my Ambassador who could not be here due to some other commitments.

Let me at the outset, Chair, commend the ITC for its strong commitment to inclusive trade and sustainable development. We highly welcome its various initiatives and programmes with respect to developing and strengthening trade and investment support institutions, strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs, digitilising businesses and markets, connecting to regional and global value chains, empowering women through trade, and promoting regional economic integration. In this regard, I would like to convey our appreciation to the Executive Director Ms. Arancha Gonzalez and her staff for the excellent achievements during the year 2017.

Chairperson,

Mauritius has been working in close collaboration with the ITC for a number of years, in several and diverse areas.

A major important ITC's technical assistance was the formulation of the Mauritius National Export Strategy (NES) launched in 2017. Subsequently the Economic Development Board (EDB) was established. EDB regroups the former Enterprise Mauritius, the Board of Investment and the Financial Services Agency under one umbrella, thereby enabling greater coherence and effectiveness in implementing policies, *is involved in the implementation of the NES.*

Chairperson, we look forward to enhance further our collaboration with the ITC. In this regard, we reiterate the request made by Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, at a meeting with the ITC Executive Director in Geneva on 14 September 2017, on the possibility of collaboration in the following areas:

- i. Advice on opportunities for MSMEs in the EAC-COMESA-SADC Tripartite;
- ii. Organisation of training workshops in Mauritius aimed at bolstering participation of women in trade in the African continent; and
- iii. Enabling strategy for promotion and trade in handicrafts and artisanal products including the potential of creating a fulfillment centre in our Freeport. The creation of such a centre would especially be beneficial for the export of handicrafts and artisanal products and, in general, enable

local businesses, including SMEs, to engage in ecommerce by facilitating the warehousing and shipping components of the process.

Chairperson, Mauritius is pleased to continue its work with ITC and pursue further its collaboration with the WTO, and UNCTAD. We would also join our voice in soliciting assistance of our development partners and the donor community at large to support ITC in facilitating the development of trade and investment projects for the developing countries.

Lastly, chair Allow me to thank ITC, the staff and especially Mr Sebastien Turrel and his team for all the support provided to Mauritius.

Thank you