

Informal Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting  
26 January 2015

Statement by the Netherlands

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to note that the Netherlands supports the statement on behalf of the donors made by Canada.

Dear Colleagues,

The priority for Dutch development cooperation is to ban extreme poverty in one generation.

To do so the Government of the Netherlands embarked in 2012 on an ambitious plan to combine aid, trade and investment for inclusive growth. Why? The answer is simple. Because enhancing trade and investment has impact on development.

The “Aid for Trade” organizations in Geneva play an important role in the implementation of our ideas and strategy. They show us day by day that trade serves as a platform for growth, development, poverty reduction & employment.

But more needs to be done. Many SME’s in developing countries lack possibilities to benefit from getting connected to international value chains.

When this is linked with assisting the export promotion efforts of the developing countries we see ITC as a valuable partner. Together with our Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries, the CBI, ITC implements several programs in for example Bangladesh, Uganda and Kenya. We will continue to do so in the future.

The independent evaluation shows that ITC is good at what it currently does. We congratulate the current and the past management on this. ITC operates in a niche market where interventions are small and meaningful.

There lays in our view the success of this small organization.

Let me close in hoping that the constant monitoring, and if necessary improvement, of ITC its work to enable SME's in developing countries to scale up their activities.

Thank you very much.