

Thank you Chair,

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We thank outgoing chair, Amb. Patricia Obrien, for her comprehensive statement and stewardship of governance processes during year under review, our special thanks to Executive Director for a through over view of ITCs work over the last year. Chair, we welcome you, you have our full support in your new role.

I would like to begin by appreciating ITC team for an outstanding performance during the last year and congratulate the Ex. Director ARANCHA GONZALEZ, who is a thought leader in Geneva in realm of trade and development---for her vision and commitment which enabled ITC to achieve its targets --rather surpassed its own record of previous year, it is a proof of ITCs professional and dedicated work. We also acknowledge the level of professionalism of the staff and appreciate the skillful and diligent leadership of senior management. ITC staff worked with dedication in a practical and results-focused manner in all areas under the ITC portfolio. Specially the work on trade facilitation, SMEs, policy advice, women economic empowerment and e-solutions. We particularly value the economic empowerment of women which has been a cornerstone of ITC's work, specially the She Trades initiative.

Chair.... ITCs efforts to synergize trade and development agenda in collaboration with partner organizations like WTO and UNCTAD is commendable and its approach to effectively focus on specific areas with quantifiable results and making new partnerships... places ITC in a unique position.

ITC is a valued partner in ensuring that the benefits of the multilateral trading system reach developing and Least Developed countries.

We Express our appreciation and solidarity with ITC in celebrating a year of phenomenal achievements, as reflected in the annual report, more so since we were part of beneficiaries.

During year under review Pakistan got quality assistance from ITC in finalizing our ratification of TFA, help of ITC was critical in positively engaging some of

our domestic stakeholders. Moreover ITC conducted a baseline study on EU GSP Plus impact on poverty in Pakistan, it helped competition commission of Pakistan preparing a proposal for regional integration of competition agencies in South Asia, ITC helped us with formulation of Trade Dispute Resolution Organization Law, this will greatly protect interests of SMEs.

We thank the donors for supporting ITCs work, we assure you that you are getting the best bang for your bucks.

In the end we thank ITC for this opportunity to discuss the work of ITC and to contribute to its strategic direction. We see ITC was as a critical organization, especially within the Geneva trade hub, with its focus on effectiveness and results.

We regard ITC as our own Organization.

Thank you.