

Good afternoon excellences, good afternoon colleagues.

The Philippines would like to express its appreciation to ITC Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez and her hardworking team. We would like to commend ITC for its agility and responsiveness in addressing the needs of small enterprises particularly those from developing countries and least developing countries.

The Philippines and ITC's working relationship had come a long way. ITC was and continues to be a strong supporter of the MSME initiative in the WTO. We are glad to note that ITC makes reference to the "M" in MSMEs or the micro enterprises who, as pointed out in the WTO World Trade Report, comprise about 90% of the total MSMEs. The Philippines also thanks ITC for inviting a Philippine micro enterprise in the recently concluded MSME Day panel in June.

There are also a number of technical cooperation and capacity building projects in the Philippines that has been concluded such as the NTM business survey. We hope to work closely with ITC on future projects such as the newly launched Export Potential Map, SheTrades and the SME Trade Academy.

In closing, Madam Chair, we would like to associate ourselves with the statement of the Friends of MSMEs read by Ambassador Casanueva.

Thank you.