

49th JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) MEETING

Friday, 26 June 2015

Statement by
Dr. Francois Xavier Ngarambe
PR/Ambassador-Rwanda

Thank you Madame Chair,

Mme. Chair,
Mme. Arancha Gonzalez, ITC Executive Director

It is my pleasure to participate in this forty-ninth annual meeting of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre (ITC).

I wish, first and foremost, to recognize ITC as an important player in this Geneva Trade and Economic Diplomacy, under the leadership of Arancha Gonzalez.

Indeed, for us ITC is one of the most needed and most effective Geneva organizations, particularly for small economies in this era of increasing globalization.

For the specific case of Rwanda, ITC has been conducting a number of highly appreciated activities including training exporters, export diversification, packaging, and other projects.

Beyond Rwanda projects, we commend ITC for proposing a strategic plan which is well aligned to Africa's and LDCs needs, and to needs of other developing countries in general.

However, much more and better should and can be done through more effective exploitation of WTO-UNCTA-ITC potential synergies.

Indeed, historic advantages of developed economies tend to offset efforts to step up increased value addition, as well as diversification of production and exports by developing countries. Those historic comparative advantages relate mainly to scale and increasing returns,

advanced knowledge and technologies, better skills and higher productivity.

In those conditions, aid for trade will continue to generate limited results unless courageous and robust reforms and measures are taken for the following : to develop competitive manufacturing and services sectors in developing countries, to combat illicit flows of funds from developing economies to developed ones, and to correct imbalances and distortions in global trade.

To conclude my remarks, Mme. Chair, it is my sincere wish to join others in supporting ITC's work and requesting donors to enable ITC to fully implement its strategic plan in the interest of all stakeholders.

I thank you Madam Chair