



United Republic of Tanzania

**Statement Delivered During the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the International Trade Centre (ITC)**

**Chairperson,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Allow me to start by congratulating you chair for being appointed to preside over the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the International Trade Centre. Equally, my delegation would like to express our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Chair, Her Excellency Ambassador Molokomme for ably leading the 54<sup>th</sup> session at a very distinct and unprecedented challenging times.

Allow me also to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and delegation of Tanzania, to express our gratitude to the Executive Director Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton and the Secretariat of ITC for the commendable work of continuing to support member states during the unprecedented times. ITC has proven to be an indispensable organization for once again having executed its responsibility creatively especially during the covid-19 pandemic. It is undisputable that our economies are passing through the test of times and ITC's support is needed more than ever.

**Chair,**

During the pandemic Tanzania's export of traditional and non-traditional products has tremendously dropped. However, the continued support of ITC particularly directly to the enterprises raises our hope that trade will recovery gradually. Thanks to digital tools that have been instrumental during the lockdowns and travel bans in keeping businesses

linked. As elaborated in the report, Tanzania is among the African states which ITC is implementing the FastTrack Africa initiative. Under this initiative, ITC built the capacity of institutions and entrepreneurs on digital and business skills, linking business at local, regional and international business events. The initiative has contributed in the mobilization of funding for businesses through private venture capital and other sources.

We commend ITC's leadership for ensuring implementation of various ongoing projects remained undisrupted during the Covid-19 pandemic. In countries particularly LDCs where businesses did not get financial recovery support during the pandemic, the effect of Covid-19 is vicious and vivid. ITC should continue to intensify its support in LDCs to hasten the recovery particularly on key sectors with high export potential. However, we are very pleased with the vision and commitment of ITC to continue supporting member states on this course as it has been expressed this morning by the Executive Director.

### **Chair**

My delegation will be remiss of gratitude not to mention and commend at least few projects being implemented by ITC in Tanzania which their impacts are enormous. The MARKUP for example, an East African regional project, funded by the European Union. Under the MARKUP, Tanzania has recently seen an invigoration of production and export of avocados and spices. The training, establishment of qualified certification associations, matching of funding and linking products to the international market has been the main trigger for increased production and export of avocado and spices in the country. As result, avocado now has been enlisted as one of the Government's strategic crops with high export potential in the country.

Another key ongoing project in Tanzania is the Kigoma Joint Programme, being implemented by ITC in collaboration with other UN Agencies, focused to support women and youth in districts hosting refugees on agricultural to improve production of food for

livelihoods of the host communities as well as refugees. This project has also been very useful particularly during the pandemic for increased food production in Kigoma region.

### **Chair**

My delegation welcomes with special appreciations the recently signed project between the ITC and ENABEL, the Belgian Cooperation Agency. The EU and ENABEL have confirmed to commit their financial resources to support beekeeping and value addition of honey and its by-products in six regions of Tanzania for the next three (3) years. Thanks to ITC's efforts and commitment of the European Union and the Government of Belgium for the envisioned project.

Similarly, on behalf the Government and the delegation of Tanzania, I would like to extend our special gratitude to donors and development partners for their valuable financial support in the implementation of projects in developing countries and LCDs. The commitment and vision of ITC would not be realised without timely availability of the needed financial resources. Further, my delegation urges donor members (both traditional and emerging) to continue supporting ITC's work especially in LDCs.

In closing, my delegation commends on ITC's Strategic plan and report which is comprehensive and reflective of the attained notable achievements, of which we salute the good leadership and commitment of the staff of the centre.

**I thank you chair, Dank je wel, Asante sana.**