



UK Mission
Geneva

UK Statement: Informal ITC JAG (UN/WTO Joint Advisory Group)

Management Response to the Independent Evaluation ITC

Dear Chair,

Executive Director Arancha,

Ambassadors and colleagues,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on and support the ITC's management response to the independent evaluation, which took place last year.

Firstly, I would like to align my statement with the statement made by Canada earlier, on behalf of ITC donors to the evaluation.

I would like to reiterate that ITC's management response is detailed, robust, and realistic. The UK is impressed with ITC's senior management and staff efforts in starting to implement many of the recommendations since the evaluation report was finalised early in 2014.

This was not a simple review exercise, and assessing the complex governance structure and interventions of ITC was a challenge. However, ITC met these challenges in the most constructive way; demonstrating transparency and accountability to both donors and developing country partners. I would like to particularly thank Miguel Jimenez-Pont (ITC's Head of Monitoring and Evaluation), and his team for managing and delivering a high quality evaluation report.

The way ITC has approached and followed up on its evaluation is a model for other agencies and programmes implementing trade related development assistance.

We believe that implementing the recommendations from the evaluation will ensure that the ITC focus on their core value added – supporting developing country SMEs to export more and better, and take advantage of opportunities to enter and go up regional and global, supply and value chains.

Some of the recommendations will further build on ITC's capacity to monitor results, and contribute to delivering impact in developing countries. We urge ITC management to report on progress in implementing these recommendations, at least annually at the formal Joint Advisory Group meetings.

The UK has full confidence in Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez, her senior management team, and ITC's expert staff who are working to help thousands of SMEs daily to prosper and go out of poverty through trade. That is why the UK has committed to support ITC with £26 million, over 6 years.

Thank you

Kebur Azbaha

Trade and Development Policy Adviser

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