

Canada Statement for Joint Annual Group Meeting July 4, 2016

Chair,

Canada is pleased to attend this meeting of the JAG. The ITC is an important partner in Canada's efforts to harness trade to support inclusive growth.

Over the past year, Canada has had several opportunities to engage with ITC. Recently, on two separate occasions, the Director of Trade and Investment Support Institutions and the Director of Youth and Trade programme provided presentations on ITC's work in these respective areas to Global Affairs Canada colleagues. Also, in March of 2015, ITC made its first official visit to Ottawa; where the Executive Director, Ms. González met with senior officials and operational teams.

We are pleased that ITC has begun to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in its operations and has aligned its work to support environment sustainability while promoting economic progress through the expansion of trade opportunities. We encourage further efforts from the ITC to demonstrate how its operations contribute to the global efforts in addressing climate change and reporting on the two degree target expected of its members.

We are encouraged with the advancements that the ITC has made on implementing the recommendations from the two recent evaluations ITC has undergone. The Annual Report 2015 demonstrates the clear linkages between ITC's strategic objectives and its programme-based portfolio around the six Focus areas. It would be useful to include in the Annual Report, as an Annex, the theory of change and overall results framework for each programme. This way, readers could clearly understand the indicators used and how ITC intends to demonstrate progress to achieve its overall objectives.

Canada is pleased with the reporting framework at the corporate level. We welcomed the presentation of the Corporate Scorecard by the Executive Director, Ms. González at the Consultative committee on ITC Trust in the fall of 2015. For next year's annual report, Canada would also like to see: (1) an enhanced analysis and narrative assessment of progress on or toward each outcome and objective; and, (2) sex-disaggregation of actual data for indicators that demonstrate the number of enterprises/clients that have been impacted by ITC's support in all of its six program areas.

We would like to applaud ITC for its efforts in empowering women's economic empowerment in less developed countries through enhanced trade opportunities. For example, the SheTrades initiative demonstrates how ITC is using innovation to reach scale. We look forward to understanding its roll out and progress, and the impact this will have on women's lives.

We encourage ITC to further address gender equality considerations throughout its operations to ensure they uphold women's rights and promote women's empowerment. This requires looking at the root causes behind the barriers inhibiting women's equal participation in local, regional, global markets.

ITC's flagship report, *SME Competitiveness Outlook* has been very well received within Canada. We would like to thank Ms. González for her presentation in a webinar on this topic, organized by Global Affairs Canada in June. The Outlook is an informative report to understand the critical determinants of business' capacity to be competitive. We look forward to the 2016 edition and encourage ITC to adopt a gender lens in examining the role that standards and regulations play in both supporting and inhibiting SME internationalization.

As a final note, Canada would also be interested to learn more about ITC's work in the informal sector in less developed countries; as well as, how it intends to scale up its work with Refugees.

We appreciate ITC's work in creating "opportunities to place the global economy on a more environment-friendly trajectory" and look forward to continue to work closely with ITC, other donor countries and with ITC partners countries to create impact on the ground in achieving inclusive, sustainable development that reduces poverty.

[To be Delivered in the Afternoon Session: 16:30 – 17:00 Announcement of the contributions to the ITC Trust Fund](#)

This year, Canada's Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, approved a three-year funding arrangement with ITC from 2016 to 2019 to its Window I activities (core). Previously, Canada's support to ITC was negotiated on an annual basis. With a total of C\$2.65M, the first annual disbursement of C\$950,000 was completed in March. This new three-year arrangement facilitates longer-term planning to ITC's core activities.