

**Statement of Ambassador Zenebe Kebede KORCHO at the ITC's
53rd annual session of Joint Advisory Group-JAG, July 2, 2019**

Madam Chairperson,

The Ethiopian delegation would like to add its voice to those who did congratulate you for assuming the chair of this 53rd session of annual Joint Advisory Group meeting.

Chairperson,

ITC's work, in the areas of economic empowerment and job creation for the most needy population segment of the world, the women and youth, in building value chains and connectivity of markets and investment, creating e-solutions and improving countries' business environment, are directly linked to the most of the SDGs targets and are deeply connected to the priorities that many of our countries have set out. This type of assistance that ITC is engaged; I would say are really irreplaceable and are very vital.

In Ethiopia currently, ITC is engaged in supporting different women and youth focussed projects among which, the SITA project, that is focused on spices trade exploring transfer of Indian best practices to Ethiopian spices sector and brining Indian investors to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is also one of beneficiary countries of the PIGA project that has targeted to increase investment-led exports and local development by increasing foreign investments and business partnerships. ITC's SheTrade project is another area that ITC is supporting the Ethiopian Women Association engaged in coffee business, by providing the members of the association with theoretical and practical skills in managing coffee washing stations, and enable them to improve efficiency and quality.

Currently, ITC in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry in organising its annual World Export Development Forum to be held in Addis Ababa in November 2019.

Choosing Addis as a venue for the annual World Export Development Forum is the right choice and place, at the right time when the AU has

launched the entering into force of the famous AfCFTA that is envisaged integrating the continent economically and to shape our countries global trade. As a country, it is really a good opportunity for us to organise the event and we are very grateful for ITC for choosing Addis for the event.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you present at this Joint Advisory Group to attend the World Export Development Forum. We are proud to warmly welcome you to Addis Ababa from 18-22 November for this important event, which helps businesses create new deals and brings policymakers new opportunities for partnerships, which as Ms. Arancha, indicated this morning, that is expected to connect 3 million women with the global market. This year's theme is "**Trade and Invest in One Africa**".

Taking the opportunity, I would like you all save the date of your schedule for November. We hope to see you all, there in Addis, with strong business and government delegations, including women and youth who are so important for the future of trade in Ethiopia and in the African Continental Free Trade Area. I also would like to remind you that you will enjoy the usual Ethiopian hospitality and the lovely November weather at large.

In conclusion Madam Chairperson, the Government of Ethiopia, would like to thank donors and partner countries for their contribution and support so far and promises made, without which ITC would have not been achieved its intended objectives.

Taking the opportunity, we want to self-assure that under the stewardship of the Executive Director Ms. González, the whole management team and the dedicated expertise of the staff, ITC would continue to deliver on its main objectives and improve its technical and capacity building supports in international trade and investment promotion and connectivity on the operational business-related aspects of trade development and most importantly helping enterprises specially of small and medium-sized enterprises, in building their capacity to improve their trade performances where women and the youth are the main beneficiaries. To so doing, Madam Chair, we count on our donors and partner countries to continue securing their contribution to support ITC to let ITC continue support us.

I thank you.