

July 2, 2019

Statement by Germany

Thank you Chair,
Madam Executive Director (dear Arancha),
Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, it is an honour and a pleasure for the Federal German Government to participate in the ITC's Joint Advisory Group Meeting.

Germany aligns itself fully with the Donors' Group Statement which was held by Denmark. My additional remarks come from Germany in its national capacity. We are aware that trade forms an essential part of development, as it is a vital tool for creating sustainable growth and more over for job creation around the globe.

Germany has been the second largest bilateral donor for Aid for Trade since 2013 and we remain committed to supporting partner countries in maximizing the contribution of trade for sustainable development. Germany highly values the work and achievements of ITC in the field of trade-related technical assistance.

I'd like to underline that almost one third of Germany's voluntary contributions was dedicated to the ITC Women and Trade Programme. We think it is crucially important to further push for the equal participation of women in trade, also because of the positive effects for the economies at large.

The strategy of German Government on Aid for Trade therefore highlights gender as one of the cross-cutting issues that drives the design and implementation of our Aid for Trade programmes.

Germany also cooperates with ITC in the framework of bilateral projects, for example in the scope of the ITC "She trades" project "Empowering Women in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA)." We know that ITC is very active in this field and we remain interested in exploring possibilities to work together, always with a view to harmonizing efforts and to ensuring that we complement each other.

Already, Germany, ITC and private companies such as DHL have joined hands in the project "Enabling the Future of e-Commerce in Rwanda" which has shown good results.

Another major field of German Aid for Trade is Quality Infrastructure. Quality Infrastructure is also a prominent topic at this year's Aid for Trade Global Review. It has to be clear: Without reliable product quality – you can hardly achieve more or better trade!

At the Global Review, we will contribute our experience in this field through a joint session with ITC where the "Export Quality Management" approach will be introduced as one practical example how to improve access to information on quality requirements for Small and Medium Enterprises. I'm very happy to see the training tool which was jointly developed with ITC, has already been applied various times in projects in Asia and the near East.

Before I conclude, I'd like to thank Arancha Gonzalez and her great ITC-Team for the hard work in the past year and for the openness to learn from one another – be it evaluators, SMEs in developing countries, other companies or development partners. And your efforts and flexibility are reflected in growing donors' voluntary contributions , and this doesn't come automatically in these times. We look forward to working with ITC to further enhance our engagement for sustainable development.

Thank you.