

Statement by Ambassador Miyon LEE  
Republic of Korea  
54<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre

Excellencies, ladies & gentlemen, the Korean delegation joins other speakers in expressing our appreciation to Her Excellency Ambassador Kauppi of Finland for her work as Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session. Congratulation to Her Excellency Ambassador Molokomme of Botswana on assuming the Chair of the 54<sup>th</sup> Session. We further congratulate Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton as this is her first JAG meeting as Executive Director of the ITC. Last but not least, we thank Ms. Dorothy Tembo for her steady hand in guiding the ITC as interim head through the early months of the pandemic.

Korea welcomes the publication of the ITC for the 2019 Annual Report and the 2020 Annual Evaluation Synthesis Report. We note in particular some of the findings in these reports that the ITC is producing real results and bringing real changes on the ground. As one of the top 10 Aid for Trade donor countries, Korea strongly supports the work of the ITC. We are partnering with the ITC to support the SDG goals relating to empowering women to trade and ensuring that youth have the relevant skills for decent jobs and entrepreneurship. The following are some concrete examples of our fruitful collaboration :

First, Korea is funding SheTrades West Africa – a project helping to improve the livelihoods of 10,000 women farmers in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Liberia.

Second, Korea is expanding this partnership into supporting startups in Africa. The Korean Government is actively reviewing a project to establish a Youth Startup Academy for Africa in Ghana and Uganda. Once it is up and running, the Academy will help spur youth employment and business creation in Africa. An experienced official from the Korean Ministry of SMEs and Startups has been further seconded to the ITC to identify opportunities for greater collaboration along these lines. We look forward to continue working with the ITC, the Governments of Ghana and Uganda to bring this project to fruition.

Third, Korea is also helping to manage the Procurement Map of the ITC's Market Analysis Tools. The Procurement Map aims to help SMEs search for opportunities to bid for public procurement contracts around the world.

Lastly, we have decided to support the ITC's SheTrades Outlook by sharing Korea's best practices on women's economic empowerment.

In closing, we thank once again the ITC for its commitment to unleashing the potential of MSMEs in developing countries and LDCs and look forward to strengthening our partnership.