

## **Myanmar's Statement for ITC's Joint Advisory Group Meeting on 4 July**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of Myanmar, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Chair for convening this JAG meeting.

Mr. Chair, with the assistance of ITC and financial support from BMZ, Myanmar has developed the National Export Strategy (NES) since 2013, followed by the launch of the NES implementation in March 2015. In the NES, we have identified (7) priority sectors, which has greatest potential for rapid growth of exports, and (4) cross-cutting sectors.

The implementation period for the NES is 5 years (2015 – 2019) and The Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade), Ministry of Commerce is the focal organization for the implementation of NES. Currently, there are three projects under the implementation of the NES:

**The first one is Inclusive Tourism project focusing on Kayah State.** The project is funded by Netherlands, CBI, co-designed and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), under the Netherlands Trust Fund III program. The project is ongoing in cooperation with Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and tourism related associations. The project value is USD 1.9 million and inclusive tourism project will be carried out till 2017.

**The second one is improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures to increase export revenues in the oilseeds value chain in Myanmar.** The project is being implemented with the technical assistance of ITC and funding support from STDF (Standard and Trade Development Facility) under the WTO. This is a 3-year project from 2015 to 2018 and the project value is USD 0.97 million.

**The third one is initiating the setting-up of a National Trade Information Network in Myanmar.** The project aims to establish a trade information network composed of public and private institutions that respond to the priorities of the National Export Strategy (NES) of Myanmar. The initial stage was funded by the Government of United Kingdom with the technical support of ITC. The project is expected to be fully operational through this initial project.

**Mr. Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce other key pipeline projects aimed to develop trade and also linked to the NES.**

One of the key projects is the Trade Development Programme (TDP) implemented by GIZ. The TDP is mainly funded by European Union and the project value is Euro 10.5 million. For the Ministry of Commerce, this TDP project has become a very good example of resource mobilization with among other projects.

Under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), the Tier 1 project funded by EIF Trust Fund is being implemented in house of Ministry of Commerce. This project aims to enhance the capacity of officials from the Ministry of Commerce as well as for the Aid for Trade Coordination Unit, which is the NIU of Myanmar, composed of technical level key persons from EIF, NES and Trade Facilitation and other related projects.

Mr. Chair, one of the successful achievements of EIF in Myanmar is that the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) carried out by the World Bank was launched last month as a with a high-level event, reflective of the Government's vision and tireless efforts to reintegrate Myanmar into the global economy.

Based on all trade related studies and the strategies at hand, we are now preparing the Medium-Term Program (MTP) with the support of the World Bank and the EIF programme which will be finalized soon. MTP will be integrated with key actions on different studies and strategies mainly by prioritizing and sequencing.

Mr. Chair, all studies and strategies contain valuable insights into and suggestions for trade development. To ensure to have efficiency and effectiveness, and to be a coherent and to get synergy effects, we are taking care not to overlap our projects and not to go beyond our strategic direction. The sense of full ownership is also our core principle to achieve our goal.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Delegation of Myanmar, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciations to ITC for the continued support to NES implementation and we are willing to cooperate in making this implementation a success. [I would also like to extend our profound thanks to the EIF, the World Bank, the EU and other international organizations, development partners and donors for their continued strong support.]

Thank you.