

**INTERVENTION BY H. E. SABINE BÖHLKE-MÖLLER DURING ITC'S 52ND JOINT
ADVISORY GROUP MEETING ON 8 JULY 2018**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
UNCTAD Secretary-General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi,
WTO Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Agah,
ITC Executive Director Ms. Arancha González,
Distinguish delegates

Mr. Chairman

Congratulation on your appointment to chair the 52nd Joint Advisory Group Meeting. I also wish to thank Ambassador Lisson, outgoing chair for her able leadership. My delegation thanks Ms. Zarrok and Mr. Ocansey for sharing their inspirational experiences with us.

At the outset, I wish to thank the respective Heads of WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC for their continuous dedication over the past year. We appreciate your quest to ensure that trade improves lives of people around the world.

My delegation values the work done by ITC over the past years, particularly the progressive cooperation and support which Namibia receives with the implementation of Namibia's National Development Plans for Economic Advancement. In this connection, ITC and Namibia have been active on the

front of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) issues. We have had several workshops that help private sector and trade support institutions to understand better the need to identify Non-Tariff measures. NTM surveys have been prepared and disseminated, but then follow-up action is required to eliminate the NTMs as a result of those surveys. Public and Private sectors stakeholders have been working together to reduce NTMs so that they can maximize the benefits of the trade liberalization agenda and Trade Facilitation framework developed at the WTO.

Additional resources and Trade-related Technical Assistance (TRTA) services would need to be allocated to Namibia that would allow an organization like ITC to assist Namibian institutions and also the Government itself to address the trade development issues and needs.

GIZ completed work on the cosmetic value chain in which they identified priority products that would supply the cosmetic industry in the country (with an organic – certificate of origin purely Namibian), but GIZ is only facilitating the coordination/implementation of the national cosmetic strategy with some stakeholders (including the ITC). In concrete terms and as far as the trade dimension is concerned, much more needs to be done with regards to environmental preservation, resources efficiency, protection of water resources and waste management. The environment and natural indigenous plants remain important to Namibia. These two factors will be

presented to potential donors to support ITC and the Namibian government for strengthening the environmental dimension of the cosmetic value chains for products that are uniquely Namibian (such as devil's claw) and support value addition of the product, that would truly benefit the local SMEs, women employers, young entrepreneurs and the Namibia people. Such endeavour would be critical from a job creation perspective, and enhancement of the women workforce.

The Namibia Trade Forum had requested additional funding to continue supporting private sector development for women entrepreneurs and the export processes, business management, marketing, production, and business to businesses (b2bs). We have done much on that front, but much remains to be achieved. In this regard, my delegation requests ITC to continue supporting women-owned SMEs in the country, to assist them in understanding the issues of the international business and how ITC could help them in addressing them.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to thank the ITC team, in particular Mr. Sébastien Turrel and his team for their continuous support and tireless effort in the implementation of past and current projects.

I thank you.

