

Intervention by H.E. Deepak Dhital at the 52nd session of the Joint Advisory Group
Meeting of the International Trade Centre
Geneva, 10 July 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair for the floor. I join other delegations in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the 52nd session of the Joint Advisory Group of the ITC

I thank Ms. Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director of ITC, including her able team, for presentation of a very comprehensive report on the work of the organization last year. ITC has been providing financial and technical assistance for trade capacity building of the vulnerable and marginalized economies and helping them getting integrated into the global trading system. We support the tools and modalities employed and the interventions made by ITC in building supply side capacity of the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and small and vulnerable economies and ask for strengthening them further.

Partnership is the key to achieving sustainable development and attaining all SDGs in an inclusive way. Trade as an engine of growth, poverty reduction and job creation has a tremendous role to play in inclusive progress and prosperity. The spirit of partnership is illustrated in the formation of the Advisory Group and is also well reflected in the August House as a whole. The spirit of multi-stakeholder partnership should go strongly with the commitment to address the needs of the countries and communities who languish at the bottom rung of the development ladder.

My delegation appreciates that Nepal has been a beneficiary of the technical assistance programme of ITC. Last year, a study on developing export strategy for some of the viable export products of Nepal was carried out. Just recently, a training on economic diplomacy was conducted in the capital for trade officials and diplomatic staff with the support of ITC. The standardization and branding of one important product of Nepal 'the Chayangra Pashmina' has left important mark and become a success story.

The level of development achieved by developing member countries differ considerably. In terms of trade, some may have more scope in natural resource based commodities, others might have picked up in manufactured goods but still lagging behind in value addition, competitiveness and market access. Still other might have good prospect in certain areas of services such as tourism. In this context, we request ITC to align its support to address the real needs and demands of the concerned member countries, keeping close and constructive collaboration.

In conclusion, I commend ITC for its expertise and experience in addressing the supply side constraints in the trade of the poorer economies and wish it all success in raising global partnership for such important initiative. I stop here.

Thank you!

