

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I will make two statements. One as new donor coordinator and one on behalf of the Netherlands.

In my new role as donor coordinator, I will keep it brief and just would like to thank Japan for all their work as donor coordinator this past year. I also would like to thank all the donors for putting their confidence in me as the new donor coordinator. I will reach out to everyone in the coming month to introduce myself to those who don't know me yet, and to hear your views on how we can better align our donor priorities. I am very much looking forward to work closely with all the donors and of course the whole team of ITC.

I will now make a brief statement on behalf of the Netherlands. First of all the Netherlands supports the statement made by Japan. On top of that we would like to underline that we very much value ITC's innovative way of working, especially in the process of building back better after corona. These are challenging times, especially for MSMEs. And it is good to see that much of the work done by ITC already helped many MSMEs survive this first period. A focus on digitalization and the services sector strengthens in our view these entrepreneurs for the future, as we have moved towards a serviced driven and digital economy.

We also encourage, as was mentioned by Japan, stronger cooperation amongst institutions. In these challenging times, we need to do more with less. And with this said, we appreciate that we already see new partnerships evolve, both locally and regionally. When each organization is contributing from its own strength and expertise in a consortium or any form of partnership, we can achieve better joint results on the ground. So keep up the good work.

Thank you.