

INFORMAL JAG MEETING, 26 January 2015

Discussion on ITC's management response to the Independent Evaluation of  
the International Trade Centre

**Statement by Rwanda**

First and foremost, let me congratulate the chair for her able leadership in guiding this important meeting. Allow me also, before getting into substance, to express the appreciation of Rwanda for the tremendous work done by the new Executive Director (ED) since her first days in office and wish her, and the entire staff, the very best in this New Year.

1. Coming to the issue at hand, I wish to thank you, ED, for your updated management response and for your comprehensive oral presentation just made. Put simply, your response is much appreciated; convincing and indeed impact-driven. In particular, we note with satisfaction that your response to the strategic recommendations is guided by the following, among others:
  - A pro-active approach towards more impact on the ground in beneficiary countries, Rwanda included;
  - An integrated Result-based Management;
  - More focus on ITC's comparative advantage;
  - Use of the new client relationship management system;
  - Strengthened governance, accountability and transparency.
2. We are therefore confident, that all of these strategic actions will dramatically improve the ITC's unique mandate on private sector development, particularly SMEs and Trade support institutions to enable developing countries, in particular the poorest among them, to benefit from regional and global trade for more job creation and poverty reduction.
3. We also welcome the initiative for enhancing liaisons with stakeholders in priority regions, particularly in Africa. This will enhance ITC work with all beneficiaries in Africa including various vulnerable stakeholders such as women and youth among others.
4. Regarding the use of "UMOJA" software, my delegation agrees with the pragmatic approach suggested by ED to operationalize this system in different phases given the special status of ITC (as a hybrid entity from both UN and WTO).
5. Finally, my delegation encourages ITC to continue its efforts for more visibility of the Institution. We wish to confirm that the World Export Development Forum organized in Rwanda, in September 2014, was indeed a successful event.

A final concluding remark: I agree with ED that time has come to end the debate here on this response; let's focus on results of the implementation.

I thank you