

**Statement by South Sudan at the 55th annual session of the Joint Advisory
Group of the International Trade Centre (ITC)**

Thank you (Mr/Madam) Chairperson.

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, allow me to first congratulate you for presiding over this 55th Annual Joint Advisory Group meeting of ITC.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Government of South Sudan recognises the significance of ITC's trade related technical assistance projects in South Sudan. We are pleased with the new initiatives being implemented in the area of value chain and enterprise development (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises), youth and women economic empowerment, as well as export and investment strategy development since the past one year. These projects help South Sudan to tackle employment problems, improve incomes and livelihoods of many South Sudanese.

Over the past year, the support provided hundreds of micro and small producers of fruits and vegetables in good agronomic practices, the capacitating of South Sudanese as advisors in food safety and quality as well as the revision of the National Quality Policy are very important interventions under the South Sudan Jobs Creation and Trade Development project that the European Union are funding.

We are encouraged to see the efforts put forth by ITC, are delivering and wish the organisation the best in delivering continued support and furthering the interventions under the projects it is implementing in South Sudan. Our youth and women who are engaged in the product sectors will definitely benefit out of these timely interventions.

(Mr/Madam) Chairperson,

South Sudan supports ITC's work in trade development in general and those initiatives in South Sudan in particular. In this regard, we encourage and call up on development

partners to continue to support ITC's work which prove to be vital for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa, for improving trade capacity as well as strengthening regional and continental integration through the delivery of capacity building, including in the context of advancing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

In conclusion, **(Mr/Madam) Chairperson**, we wish Ms. Coke-Hamilton and her team much success in the implementation of ITC's planned projects and programmes. We would like to thank again ITC, for the commendable job accomplished in this period of unprecedented challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you.