

**Talking Points for Joint Advisory Group, International Trade Center
10 July 2017**

With multilateralism under fire, and with funding pressures driving a search for more efficient expressions of solidarity, it's crucial we move closer towards a more operational Geneva Trade hub with a clear division of labor between UNCTAD, ITC and WTO.

- Our efforts are well in line with those underway by our colleagues in the broader UN family to seek **a more efficient and effective UN development system** to meet the challenge of the triple promises of 2015
- Importantly we have a **clear division of labor in Geneva:**
 - UNCTAD dealing with trade policies, regulations and institutions from a development perspective;
 - WTO with trade rules and adjudication;
 - and ITC complementing both organizations by connecting Small and Medium Enterprises to global trade.
- Now we need to bring this message more clearly to our colleagues in NY but especially on the ground in developing countries: **we are better when we work together.**
- **Our meeting today is a great opportunity to take stock of our progress** and the broader global context in which we work. And also highlight the areas where we cooperate and complement each other and how we could do it better.

An example of our cooperation is on addressing the gender equality in trade -- a critical pre-requisite for inclusive prosperity.

- Joint outreach on the importance of Gender and Trade has really expanded over the last few years since agreement of SDGs and with the recognition trade needs to be inclusive to serve development.
- I was proud to be in Brussels to support the very successful event building momentum towards more concerted efforts on addressing gender at WTO, organized together with ITC and DG Trade.
- And we've pleased to assist the launch of the SheTrades initiative around the world - including in Nairobi last year during UNCTAD 14, but also just a couple months ago in Kigali.
- Together with new cutting edge tools like the UNCTAD Trade and Gender toolbox, these complementary efforts can really emphasize the pathways that lead to more inclusive trade.

We also have much joint work ahead of us on better trade information for MSMEs through our collaboration on measuring non-tariff measures/

- UNCTAD and ITC have teamed up with the African Development Bank and the World Bank on the Transparency in Trade Initiative.
- This project collects trade data on tariff and non-tariff barriers, making it easier for businesses to acquire information.
- A help desk for SMEs to understand these areas will be crucial for helping them take part in the new opportunities emerging in trade, particularly in sectors that remain heavily closed, like the digital economy.

We are also strengthening the link between export promotion and investment facilitation -- which together can fuel expansion of entrepreneurship in developing countries.

- Today, hardly anyone would dispute that supporting export capacity constitutes a core element of modern trade strategies. Here ITC has played a very important role.
- And UNCTAD supports this efforts by empowering countries on investment facilitation and entrepreneurship policy so they can help complement the efforts done by ITC.
- This complementarity will continue and must grow in the next years.

We must also continue close collaboration on Trade facilitation

- UNCTAD and ITC, continue to work together working together, have helped over 60 countries to categorize their Trade Facilitation commitments for notification to WTO.
- We must continue to create and or strengthen the national trade facilitation committees.

Finally we must congratulate Ms. Arantxa Gonzalez on being the driving force on making ITC's work so central to our collective development aspirations.

- This is why I am also to congratulate her again on her third reappointment as Executive Director of ITC.
- And I am sure that cooperation between the three of us will only deepen in the coming years.