

*Thank you Madame Chair,*

*First a short general statement - and then I will touch briefly upon the evaluation.*

*We have heard today many clear examples of the valuable work the ITC is doing with developing countries to boost the competitiveness of their SME:s. Sweden is a long-time supporter of ITC, the ITC is one of Sweden's most important Aid for trade partners. We welcome ITC's increased focus on LDCs and women, and would support increased attention also to sustainability and the environment in ITC's programming.*

*As many donors we are constantly asking for the improved tracking and reporting of results. We are therefore strongly support the ITC's ongoing efforts to improve what the Executive Director has called the back office work - including strengthened Results Based Management, transparency, and accountability, including risk management.*

*Aranca Gonzalez in her statement earlier today highlighted the need for stable and predictable funding. Sweden's multi-year un-earmarked commitments to the ITC are indeed stable and predictable, and attest to the confidence we have in ITC and its leadership.*

*With that let me wish the ITC a happy birthday*

*Now on the Evaluation:*

*Thanks to Saana consulting under the leadership of Bernard Wood for the final evaluation report - and for the transparent process by which the evaluation has been undertaken - a process which afforded us ample opportunity for dialogue.*

*As a long-term investor in ITC, Sweden has a great interest in seeing that the evaluation is put to good use - Aranca Gonzalez's initial comments today give us good hope that this will be the case.*

*Thank you Madame chair,*