

Geneva Monday January 26th 2015

Statement by Sweden at informal ITC JAG

Thank you Madam Chair,

Initially, Sweden supports the statement made by Canada on behalf of all donors.

Furthermore, Sweden appreciates the hard work put into the management response, by ITC management as well as the steering committee. It is a strong and well-structured document with clear responsibilities and time tables.

Sweden has been a supporter of ITC for a long time. Since we have just started the third year of a four-year agreement for un-earmarked core-support, we look forward to working together with ITC, partners, and other donors in the implementation of the evaluation recommendations. In particular, Sweden is encouraged by the strengthened focus on measurable results at various levels.

Many important things have been said about the current state of play of the Aid for Trade agenda. Sweden would like to echo that it is important to ensure that momentum is not lost.

Madam Chair,

Sweden has been a long-time advocate for the necessity to integrate cross-cutting issues into ITCs work. Enhancement of women's economic empowerment, access to decent jobs, and environmental sustainability are prerequisites for poverty reduction and wealth creation in the long term.

Therefore, Sweden is very pleased to see that these issues will now be further integrated into ITCs work with clear results indicators. Implementing all recommendations will be a challenging task, but the actions taken so far are very encouraging.

Thank you Madam Chair.