

Delegation of the United States

Statement for 48th Session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group

June 11, 2014

It is both a pleasure and an honor to attend the 48th session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group. On behalf of the United States, I would like to congratulate ITC both on the opening of the JAG today and on the celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The United States extends its thanks and appreciation to both the outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Joint Advisory Group. We would also like to thank Executive Director Arancha González for her leadership and the work of her team over the past year and welcome her to her first JAG as Executive Director.

The United States believes that ITC's mandate is still relevant and we were reminded of the significance of what it means to build SME trade and competitiveness during yesterday's excellent presentations to mark the 50th anniversary.

We commend ITC for its programming this past year and for the quality of its trade-related assistance. The United States continues to value the ITC's contributions to trade-related technical assistance that it makes through its work. We also continue to appreciate ITC's work on gender and its relationship to trade, and ITC's efforts to connect poor communities with local, regional, and international markets. We encourage ITC to pursue its work in these areas.

The United States is pleased that ITC has recently completed a comprehensive independent evaluation and we congratulate the organization on this major accomplishment. We were pleased to participate in the evaluation steering committee and thank the evaluation unit and other members of the steering committee for all of the efforts to complete this initiative. -Keeping in mind that the most important part of an evaluation is what comes after it is completed, we encourage ITC management to make the best use of this important investment in order to take the organization into the future and strengthen governance, operations and programming.

The United States continues to believe that part of taking ITC successfully into the future means continued progress in key areas such as better managing for results. We encourage ITC to focus on holding itself accountable to delivering high quality results, monitoring its work, and articulating the impact of donor investments in a regular and transparent manner. Success in these areas will be essential to ITC management as it seeks to reach out to a broader donor base.

In the year to come, we look forward to working with the ITC leadership in support of the ITC's overall mission and in its efforts to use the findings of the evaluation to take the organization into the future.

Thank you.