

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY ZAMBIA AT THE 51<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
CENTRE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING, 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017, ROOM S1, WTO**

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**Chairperson,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Zambian Delegation, I wish to join others in thanking the International Trade Centre Executive Director, Ms. Arancha Gonzalez for her Report.

May I also take this opportunity to recognize the presence of development partners who continue to provide invaluable financial and technical support to the important work of the International Trade Centre.

**Mr. Chair**

From the outset, Zambia wishes to commend and applaud the International Trade Centre for its excellent work in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development. Many countries particularly the least developed have benefited from this important work especially in interventions aimed at addressing supply side capacity constraints which have brought about lasting impacts in the economies of beneficiary countries.

For example, in Zambia, the International Trade Centre has been involved in interventions in areas which include the following:

1. The programme on **“Promoting Intra-Regional Trade in Eastern Africa”**. Interventions in Zambia focussed on improving the marketing of Zambian honey to enable the sector to set a firm foothold in export markets, particularly through organic certification of honey producers/exporters;
2. The **Women and Trade Programme** aimed at empowering women in the cotton sector. Through this programme, a number of women farmers have been trained in yarn production through hand spinning of cotton fibre, weaving, and in business leadership and entrepreneurship;

3. The **Trade promotion and value addition for African regional project** implemented by ITC. Specifically, support has been provided to build the capacities of farmers and weavers through training in hand spinning, weaving, cotton classification and seed-cotton grading, cluster management, product development and quality management etc.) and to promote handloom products;
4. **Implementation of the UN Joint Programme on Green Jobs.** Under this programme, a series of capacity building trainings and coaching of SMEs have been delivered in Zambia on accessing finance. Phase 2 of the project is expected to focus on sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, and tourism;
5. the **AIM for Results Programme.** The Zambia Development Agency was Benchmarked in 2014, and has received support for the implementation of a Performance Improvement Roadmap, particularly development of its Strategic Plan, a new Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as well as advisory services on various topics;
6. The **Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa.** Zambia has participated in the Investment Promotion Seminar held in China where it marketed investment opportunities in Zambia in agro-processing and light manufacturing among others; and
7. Lastly, the development of an **online Trade Obstacles Alert system** to enhance the national level non-tariff barriers tracking, monitoring, reporting and resolving efforts of the Government. The system provides a platform for operators to report to the relevant authorities any trade obstacles they encounter;

**Mr. Chair,** these are just a few examples of the many interventions that highlight the critical role ITC has played in Zambia over the years in terms of trade capacity building, skills development and enhancing productive capacities of Small Businesses.

Moving forward, we would like to invite ITC to assist Zambia in the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan for the period 2017 to 2021 which is a building block towards the Vision 2030. In the context of the Plan, economic diversification will be attained through value addition and industrialisation anchored on agriculture, mining and tourism among others. These sectors have been prioritised due to their high growth

potential, comparative and competitive advantages as well as their potential for poverty reduction.

With that said **Mr. Chair**, we are mindful that such support will not be possible without the financial and technical support of our development partners, we therefore call upon development partners to continue to generously contribute to the budget of the ITC.

With these remarks, I Thank You Mr. Chair for giving me the floor.