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Republic of Zambia

**Statement delivered by Zambia at the 50th International Trade Centre Joint
Advisory Group Meeting,
4th July 2016, Room CR, WTO**

**ZAMBIAN PERMANENT MISSION
GENEVA**

Chairperson,

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Zambian Delegation, I wish to join others in thanking the ITC Executive Director, Ms. Arancha Gonzalez for the comprehensive report.

May I also take this opportunity to recognize the presence of cooperating partners who have continued to provide invaluable financial resources to support the work of ITC.

Mr. Chair

It is a well recognised fact that Small Businesses play a very important role in the economic development of developing countries by improving the quality of life in many households through job and wealth creation.

Small businesses have long been known to contribute to employment and wealth creation by engaging in activities in critical sectors of the economy such as in agriculture, manufacturing, hospitality, construction, transport, mining and trading, to mention but a few.

In this regard, Zambia wishes to commend the ITC for its continued efforts in helping to build the supply side capacity of these Small Business particularly those managed by women and the youth. This kind of focused support has been very valuable in linking Small Businesses to global supply chains with the ultimate objective of creating sustainable jobs. In particular, we wish to commend the

unique approach that ITC undertakes in linking these producers to international markets.

Mr. Chair,

In the case of Zambia, some of the areas where ITC has provided invaluable support include the following:

1. Strengthening our national Trade Support Institution responsible for trade promotion the Zambia Development Agency under the **Assess Improve Measure** (AIM) for results project financed by the Governments of Germany and of Finland;
2. Enhancing supply capacity, quality assurance and access to markets for Small Businesses in the Honey Sector financed by the Government of Finland;
3. Interventions supporting THE empowerment of women and other players in the cotton sector on aspects such as value addition, production technology, skills development and quality assurance financed by the British Government and by the EU; and
4. Facilitating green finance for the creation of green jobs under the Zambia Green Jobs programme financed by the Government of Finland.

Mr. Chair, such interventions are a clear indication of ITC's desire and commitment to promoting sustainable growth of Small Businesses not only in Zambia but in many other developing and least developed countries around the world. We do however,

recognize that ITC would not be able to execute its work without the financial support of the various financing partners.

Moving forward, we would like to invite ITC to consider assisting Zambia in the implementation of the Industrialization and Job creation strategy. The Strategy has prioritized four key sectors of the economy, these are, agriculture (including agro- processing); manufacturing; construction and tourism. Through this Strategy, Government is, among other interventions, promoting the establishment of product value chain clusters across the country. Currently, more than 1,700 projects countrywide have been funded with unparalleled outreach to women and the youth.

With that said **Mr. Chair**, allow me to conclude by calling upon cooperating partners to contribute generously to the budget of ITC so that it continues to support and assist Small Businesses in developing and least developed countries build their competitiveness and meaningfully benefit from integration in global value chains.

I Thank You Mr. Chair!