



**INTERVENTION STATEMENT BY ZAMBIA AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) 55<sup>TH</sup> JOINT ADVISORY  
GROUP (JAG) MEETING, HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor and good morning to everyone attending this meeting today.

My delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of this 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Advisory Group. I wish to thank you for your Statement.

Chair, I also wish to thank your predecessor Her Excellency Ambassador Molokomme of Botswana, as well as His Excellency Mr. Zhang, from the WTO and Mr. Moreno, from UNCTAD for their Statements.

Chair, I further wish to thank Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton for her report to this meeting today. I commend her and her team at ITC for their dedication to the important work of ITC particularly during this period when we are still faced with numerous health, social and economic challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has posed serious challenges for many of our economies particularly the SMEs which have been worst affected by the public

health measures put in place to contain the spread of the pandemic. We therefore appreciate the tireless commitment of ITC who did not relent in their work to ensure that the objectives set out during the reporting period were met.

Chair, all this would not have been possible without the support and financial commitment of donors and development partners. My delegation therefore wishes to thank them for their longstanding support to the important work of ITC.

Chair, as you may be aware, Zambia recently ushered in a new Government led by His Excellency, President Hakainde Hichilema following elections that were held on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. The new Government has placed very high importance on providing an enabling environment for SME development as a vehicle for sustainable job and wealth creation.

Chair to this effect, the new Government recently created the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, and the Ministry of Technology and Science, the Ministry of Green Economy as well as realigned the mandates of some Ministries to ensure that issues of SME and private sector development, science and technology, and climate change, among others, are placed at the centre of Zambia's new economic transformation agenda. My delegation will therefore, in due course, engage with ITC to identify areas in our new economic transformation agenda where we can cooperate in line with the ITC mandate.

Lastly, Chair, I wish to seize this opportunity to thank the ITC for their continued collaboration with Zambia on a number of flagship projects such as SheTrades and the African Trade Observatory under the African Continental Free Trade Area. ITC's trade-related technical assistance programmes play a very important role in Zambia's trade and economic development agenda. We therefore look forward to the continued close collaboration with ITC to ensure the successful implementation of existing and future programmes.

I thank you.