

International Trade Centre (ITC) – Joint Advisory Group (JAG)

WTO room S1, 20 July 2023, from 9:30

European Union remarks*

Dear Secretary-General of UNCTAD,

Dear Director-General of the WTO,

Dear Executive Director of the ITC,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The European Union and its Member States remained the biggest donors of the International Trade Centre in 2022. This reflects ITC's commitment to enhancing inclusive and sustainable growth and development in developing countries, especially least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition. We will be interested in hearing these countries speak to their experiences with ITC in 2022. As a donor, the European Union aligns with the statement that Germany has delivered on donors' behalf.

As European Union, we are pleased to have joined efforts with ITC in 2022, partnering at country, regional and global level to promote sustainable and inclusive development. Within the large portfolio that the European Union has built up with ITC, four examples from 2022 may be of interest to this assembly:

1. In November 2022, in the margins of the African Union Summit for economic diversification and industrialisation, ITC co-signed and presented a diagnostic on value chain development in Africa that was co-commissioned by the European and African Union Commissions. Based on extensive research, the diagnostic identified four major value chains that hold the promise of developing trade, investment and growth on the continent.
2. Also in 2022, the European Commission funded a series of five papers and four webinars aimed at developing a gender lens for the work of the WTO. These have resulted in a first body of evidence

that WTO members can take forward in the area of trade and gender.

3. Thirdly, in 2022 the European Commission and ITC started developing a climate competitiveness project. This aims at helping developing countries to connect the dots between trade and environment nationally, and make their voice heard in the WTO.
4. Fourthly, in 2022 the European Commission started partnering and co-creating with ITC and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States¹ in the area of corporate due diligence. Anticipating the entry into force of the European Union's Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive, work started on accompanying measures to help prepare stakeholders and avoid unintended consequences for suppliers and producer groups, in particular SMEs, in exporting countries.

As you can imagine, these activities are continuing this year, and we will be happy to provide further information to all those interested, and to this body.

In closing, let me stress the European Union's commitment to meeting our partners' need to ensure their sustainable and inclusive growth.

Thank you.

* The EU statement complements the donors' statement delivered by Germany.

¹ OACPS