

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. KOBENA EBO QUAISON,  
MINISTER-COUNSELLOR/HEAD OF THE COMMERCIAL  
DEPARTMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA AT THE  
JOINT ADVISORY GROUP (JAG) MEETING OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) HELD AT THE WTO ON  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

1. Ghana would like to join other Members in congratulating the ITC on the hosting of the Fifty-Sixth (56<sup>th</sup>) session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG).

2. We would further like to congratulate the ITC for the very many critical interventions that it continues to undertake in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sectors of its members.

3. Ghana remains a direct beneficiary of some of these very important interventions which seeks to transform considerably, the MSME landscape of many developing countries especially the least developed amongst them.

4. A few of the pages including on 52 and 53 of the 2022 Annual Report clearly articulates the presence of the ITC in Ghana's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector.

5. The tremendous contributions to the development agenda of our countries within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) justifies the ITC's very existence and by extension, the support that it requires in executing its mandate.

6. We are further impressed by the ITCs work on trade and gender. The ITCs recent attempt at creating a global network of governmental focal points on trade and gender is thus commendable. We note that the ITC intends organizing workshops to help strengthen institutional capacity on trade and gender issues with a view to providing a platform for focal points to share and learn from good practices that promote women's economic empowerment and gender equality.

7. The other issues captured in this report are timely and Ghana will cease the opportunity to assimilate and pragmatize its contents for the benefit of our SMEs.

8. Further to our commitment to partnering with the ITC to bring development to our doorstep, we are happy to inform you Chair, and by extension all members that, Ghana in May this year, successfully co-hosted with the ITC, the World Trade Promotions Organizations (WTPO) Conference and Awards Ceremony in Accra; and as a committed partner, we did our very best together with all stakeholders to ensure that taking the WTPO Conference and Awards Ceremony to Accra was justified.

9. In this regard, we would like to extend our appreciation to the ITC, Members and all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to ensure that the first WTPO Conference to be hosted in sub-Saharan Africa was a tremendous success.

10. Chair, I have referred you to the pages in the Annual Report that articulates the interventions that my country has benefitted from. The impact of these interventions is long lasting and indeed, life changing for our people especially women, children and those within the low-income bracket and other vulnerable groups.

11. In conclusion, Chair, we would like to recognize the outstanding leadership of the Executive Director of the ITC, Pamela Coke-Hamilton and her team for continuing to ensure, that the ITCs services get to those who need them the most.

12. Thank you, Chair.