

**Statement of Ukraine at the 57th Joint Advisory Group meeting of  
the International Trade Centre**

*(Geneva, Switzerland, 20 July 2023)*

**Thank you, Madame Chair for giving me the floor,**

- To begin with, on behalf of Ukrainian delegation I would like to join others in congratulating you, Madame Chair, on your assumption of the Chair position of this session. We would also like to thank the Chair of the 57<sup>th</sup> session Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady for her leadership.
- We also thank the ITC Executive Director, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton and her team for the presentation of a comprehensive report on the work of the agency in 2022. We reconfirm our appreciation of all efforts undertaken by ITC in promoting economic development, sustainable trade and women empowerment.
- Before the beginning of Russia's full-scale military invasion, Ukraine had been benefiting from a long-standing and successful cooperation with ITC with the help of donors for many years.
- However for the time-being, Ukrainian MSMEs have experienced significant losses due to the war. 49% of them are conducting business with certain limitations, and 10% are not working at all. The top three restrictions implemented by companies remain are the following: 34% have reduced their geographical scope of operations, 18% have transitioned to remote work, and 15% of respondents have closed some of their offices. And of course, I cannot help but mentioning that the Russia's unilateral decision to withdraw from the Black Sea Grain Initiative makes things even worse for all the Ukrainian small farmers.
- To react on the devastating consequences of the Russia's war of aggression, approximately one year ago Ukraine and ITC have jointly developed the concept paper on proposed ITC interventions in Ukraine. This concept paper targets two pillars of beneficiaries: Pillar 1 – MSMEs and Pillar 2 – Displaced populations (IDPs, refugees and returnees) to provide both immediate response, medium and long-term support.

- For this reason, Ukraine expresses the sincerest hope for more active involvement by the ITC secretariat and country-donors in implementing the concept notes targets both immediately and in a longer-term.
- Thank you, Madame Chair!