

The Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Center
(ITC)

Fifty–sixth Session (13 September 2022)

Statement by China

Distinguished Mme. Chair,

H.E. Executive Director of ITC Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Secretary General of UNCTAD Rebeca Grynspan and Director-General of WTO Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the floor. At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Iweala, Ms. Grynspan and Ms. Coke-Hamilton for their statements. Please also accept our sincere gratitude to the entire ITC team for all the good work done in 2021.

Mme. Chair,

The COVID-19 pandemic is eroding decades of progress in global development, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is encountering difficulties, the North-South gap keeps widening, food and energy security crises are looming in the horizon, and poverty and hunger are on the rise.

Against this background, ITC works towards building an inclusive and sustainable recovery for developing countries, by strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of their MSME exporters. The Chinese delegation has carefully read the ITC's Annual Report 2021

and would like to make the following comments.

China highly values ITC's good work in improving competitiveness and supporting internationalization of MSMEs, including using trade tools like Global Trade Helpdesk to offer trade and market intelligence to MSMEs, enabled an estimated \$182 million in trade transactions; provided training programmes to African MSMEs on leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area export opportunities, and supported over 10,000 MSMEs during COVID-19 lockdowns in Pakistan, etc. We are also pleased to notice that, the Global Digital Trade Accelerator for MSMEs, launched by ITC and Alibaba, helped MSMEs in developing countries to increase practical knowledge in e-commerce operations, improve e-commerce marketing skills, explore business opportunities and generate new exports. ITC's work has been effective in eliminating trade obstacles, making market information easily accessible to MSMEs, helping them expand internationally and building more resilient supply chains.

China also appreciates the work of ITC in providing policy support to developing countries, including capacity building on WTO discussions and negotiations, crafting national export strategies, supporting WTO accessions as well as customs reforms to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement. These have contributed to establishing a conducive business environment for developing countries and promoting their integration into global trade.

China also commends ITC's cooperation with Business Support Organizations, including supporting them with organizational optimization and strategy design, and providing training on innovative management. These interventions have helped exporters

find new market opportunities and enhanced their capacities to export.

Mme. Chair,

China has maintained sound cooperation with the ITC for over 40 years. We have jointly implemented a number of successful projects, which have delivered positive impact for sustainable development. This collaboration is a good example of South-South cooperation. China looks forward to further deepening cooperation with the ITC, taking advantage of ITC's expertise, and applying them to support developing countries overcome their challenges. There are several areas that we can strengthen our cooperation.

First, green trade and digital economy are key topics under the Global Development Initiative proposed by China. These are also ITC's priority areas. China looks forward to working with the ITC on these issues to explore potential projects for cooperation, enhance the depth of cooperation and jointly promote post-pandemic economic recovery.

Second, we look forward to continue strengthening cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. We'll jointly promote trade between China and other developing countries, especially LDCs and African countries, through the China Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) and the China International Import Expo (CIIE), and improve the capacity of developing countries to achieve sustainable development through trade.

Third, we hope to foster global partnerships for development. China encourages ITC to strengthen communication and coordination with all stakeholders, work together to handle all types of known and

unknown risks, further enhance resource mobilization to ensure operation of key projects.

Mme. Chair,

We look forward to working together with the ITC to support implementation of the 2030 SDA and achieve global development and shared prosperity.

I wish all the success for the ITC in 2022.

Thank you all.