

**Statement by China at the 57th Session of the
Joint Advisory Group of International Trade Centre**

July 20, 2023

Madam Chair, Executive Director Coke-Hamilton,
Director-General Okonjo-Iweala, Secretary-General Grynspan,
excellencies, distinguished participants,

At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I extend our congratulations to Ambassador Nadia Theodore on being appointed as the chair of the 57th session. We appreciate the outgoing chair, Ambassador Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, for her excellent work at the 56th session. We also thank the secretariat for preparing and convening this session. And we want to take this opportunity to congratulate ITC on hosting a successful WEDF in this June.

We appreciate ED Coke-Hamilton for a very informative presentation, which gave us a full picture of ITC's work in the past year and a half. The Chinese delegation commends ITC's efforts in supporting MSMEs' growth, especially for those led by women and young entrepreneurs. We praise the important role of ITC in helping developing countries achieve economic recovery, and in promoting

regional economic integration and South-South cooperation. We are also delighted to notice that, ITC has made considerable efforts to promote green and digital trade. ITC has provided a large scale of technical assistance. With the assistance, many enterprises can use digital technologies to do business in the global market.

Madam Chair,

The multiple crisis of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather, soaring cost of living, food insecurity and energy supply imbalance, is widening development gap and increasing inequality. This makes it never so difficult for developing countries to achieve economic recovery, and to implement the SDGs.

This challenging environment necessitates ITC's bigger role of "Aid for Trade". We expect ITC to conduct more policy dialogues on trade liberalization, develop more trade tools for MSMEs, and provide more functional assistance to support the developing countries to achieve economic recovery and sustainable development.

China cherishes the cooperative relationship with ITC. Over the past four decades, we have jointly implemented a number of programs which have set excellent examples of South-South cooperation. We

are glad to see, since the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in 2018, ITC has organized 260 small and medium sized companies of more than 30 countries to participate in the event. Their participation has generated the intended transactions of around 55 million US dollars in total. Through the CIIE platform, the skin care products from a women-led Kenyan start-up have already entered into the Chinese market. Through our cooperation, many enterprises have enhanced export capacity and expanded the international market share.

Looking into the future, China stands ready to strengthen the cooperation with ITC through the following aspects:

Firstly, China is willing to continue to work with ITC to implement the Belt and Road Initiative. We look forward to working with ITC, to help more small and medium-sized enterprises integrate into the global value chain, make more contributions to green and inclusive economic development, and seek new opportunities for regional and global cooperation.

Secondly, China is willing to enhance our cooperation in green and digital trade. As Director-general Iweala has pointed out, e-commerce has emerged as the major force in global economic

output. UNCTAD's Global Trade Update shows that despite a decline in total trade volume for most goods starting in the second half of 2022, imports and exports of "green goods" maintained strong growth throughout last year. China puts forward the Global Development Initiative. Green development and the digital economy are among the key cooperative areas. China looks forward to strengthening cooperation in these areas with ITC.

Third, China encourages ITC to strengthen coordination with the WTO and UNCTAD, jointly safeguarding the multilateral trading system. China also supports ITC to strengthen partnership with other international organizations, industry bodies and the private sector to extend the influence across the globe.

Next year, ITC will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Over the past 60 years, the International Trade Centre has played a unique role in promoting global trade and supporting inclusive and sustainable development. China looks forward to deepening the cooperation with ITC, assisting ITC to achieve greater development in the coming future.

At last, I wish this session a complete success.