

Statement of the Federal Republic of Germany

57th Session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group (JAG)

20 July 2023

Thank you, Chair.

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Secretary-General Grynspan, Executive Director Coke-Hamilton, Excellencies, colleagues, distinguished participants,

Germany fully aligns itself with the Donor Group's statement made earlier today, and with the statement of the EU. My additional remarks come from Germany in its national capacity.

Distinguished delegates,

Germany appreciates ITC as a trusted partner with outstanding expertise of trade related technical assistance in the areas of sustainable value chains, competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, women and youth entrepreneurship, and greening trade, just to name a few.

Once again, ITC has been able to set time-bound targets for its work – targets that are comparable over the years. And ITC is delivering reliably against these targets. Let me highlight a few of these results, being mentioned in the Annual Report:

- 58 trade-related policies or strategies with an emphasis on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were decided in developing countries,
- the competitiveness of more than 27,000 MSMEs was enhanced, of which 10,000 were led by women, and
- more than 9,600 MSMEs transacted international business, of which more than 3,000 were led by women.

These impressive numbers speak for themselves: ITC is an organization that delivers.

Germany is a long-standing supporter of the ITC, contributing both with earmarked and un-earmarked funding.

Among the ITC's programs that Germany supported, I would like to mention the following:

- The One Trade Africa Programme, which supports the African Continental Free Trade Area (more than 4,300 MSMEs and more than 20 Business Support Organizations were trained on how to export under the AfCFTA agreement)
- The Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Programme with its Standards and Sustainability maps (more than 90,000 active users). The Standards map continues to be an important source of information for sustainability standards in Germany, and we hope this program will continue to receive sufficient funding from ITC's resources.

- The SheTrades Programme, which has surpassed its targets more than once, reaching more than 3 million women by the end of 2021 and showing impressive results again in 2022.

A delegation from ITC visited the German government in Berlin in May this year, in order to dive deeper and exchange on our work in Aid for Trade, and to identify areas where we can join forces. Such interactions help strengthen mutual confidence in the value of our partnership.

Let me conclude by reaffirming our strong commitment to the entire Geneva Trade Hub, including the valuable work of ITC.

Thank you.