

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Madam Chair
Executive Director of International Trade Centre (ITC)
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning to you all.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of my Ambassador who could not join this meeting because of other prior engagement.

At the outset, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to ITC for giving an opportunity to deliver this statement at the 54th Annual Session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting.

Bhutan, as a landlocked least developed country, receives support from many development partners, mostly in the form of technical assistance on trade-related areas. ITC has been an important development partner for Bhutan and has played a complementary role in pursuit of the sustainable development goals.

“Designing an Export Strategy for Bhutan’s Creative Industries”, and the “Conduct of Youth Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Assessment” are the two projects that ITC has implemented in Bhutan in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan in recent times, and both these projects have proved to be successful and beneficial for Bhutan.

The Royal Government of Bhutan, in partnership with ITC, has been able to achieve many milestones that have paved the way to achieving our national goal of Gross National Happiness. So, today, in this august forum, I would like to take an opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to ITC for their support to Bhutan.

The “EU-Bhutan Trade Support Project” launched in May 2018 is currently underway, and we are confident that the ongoing 3-year project will bring positive impact on the development of trade, particularly on the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

The Royal Government of Bhutan attaches high priority to the development and expansion of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises as the foundation of our economy. Needless to say, the continued support and partnership of ITC to build a vibrant and sustainable export sector is critical for Bhutan.

In this regard, we look forward to further deepening our partnership with ITC in developing our SMEs.

Finally, I would like to conclude by wishing ITC a successful and fruitful 54th Annual Session of the Joint Advisory Group Meeting.

I thank you Chair.
