

**Statement by Ethiopia at the 54th annual session of the Joint Advisory Group
of the International Trade Centre (ITC)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Madam Chair, I am representing my Ambassador, Ambassador Zenebe Kebede, who is unable to present due to other overlapping similar event of the UNIDO 48th IDB meeting.

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, allow me to first congratulate you for presiding over this 54th Annual Joint Advisory Group meeting of ITC. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, on her new appointment as the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre.

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Government of Ethiopia recognises the role and significance of ITC's trade related technical assistance projects and programmes in trade development in general and, those, that it has implemented in Ethiopia, in particular. Over the past several years, ITC has provided support to Ethiopia, promoting south-south trade and investment linkages between Ethiopia and India under the Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA) projects and between Ethiopia and China, under the Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA).

In this regard, under PIGA project, Ethiopian companies benefited from the trade and investment linkage opportunities, investment missions to China, a network of Chinese and African companies, and from participation at the China International Import Exhibition. Ethiopia also has benefited from the initiative that aimed at enhancing the transparency of investment facilitation measures such as tax compliance guides for foreign investors in Ethiopia.

Under the SITA project also, ITC has played significant role in facilitating Indian investments whereby two Indian companies invested in the garment units in Ethiopia. Ethiopian pulses and spices processors and exporters also benefited from business to business (B2B) events

participating at various trade fairs in India and internationally as well as from technical capacity building programmes.

It is also worth mentioning of ITC's support provided to enterprises in Ethiopia's textile processing sector to help the sector implement resource saving and circular production practices. I am also pleased to report that Ethiopia in cooperation with ITC hosted the 19th World Export Development Forum (WEDF-2019), that was successfully held in Addis Ababa in November 2019. The event marked the participation of a diverse group of institutions, enterprises and private participants drawn from different countries. Here, I would like to mention and thank Ms. Dorothy Tembo, the Deputy Executive Director of ITC, who personally was involved and travelled to Ethiopia repeatedly to ensure the high-level support for the successful organisation of the WEDF 2019.

Madam Chairperson,

Ethiopia has been a champion of ITC's work in trade development and will welcome additional support through new initiatives that helps consolidated effort in trade development, employment creation, youth and women economic empowerment and regional integration. In this regard, we call up on development partners to continue to support ITC's work that has proved to be vital for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa, for improving trade capacity as well as strengthening regional and continental integration through the delivery of capacity building, including in the context of advancing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

In conclusion Madam Chairperson, we would like to thank ITC once again, for the commendable job accomplished in this period of unprecedented challenges posed by the global COVID pandemic. We are hopeful that the ongoing COVID19 challenges would be gone by the New Year allowing for a more normal life to continue. We wish Ms. Coke-Hamilton and her team much success in the implementation of ITC's planned projects and programmes in this regards, Ms. Hamilton, please be assured that you will have my delegation's full cooperation and support in the years ahead.

I Thank you.