



PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN TO THE WTO

Pakistan statement at the 55th Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the ITC

2nd November 2021

Room XIX, Palais des Nations & Interprefy

Thank you Chair for the floor.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Ambassador Piracha who wished to be here today but is unable to do so due to some other commitments.

I join the previous speakers in thanking the previous Chair Her Excellency Ambassador Molokomme and in congratulating you Ambassador Bekkers as the new Chair of this 55th Session of the Joint Advisory Group

Our thanks and appreciation for the statements from
The Director Office of the Secretary General of UNCTAD, Mr. Moreno
The WTO Deputy Director General, Mr. Zhang
The ITC Executive Director, Ms. Coke-Hamilton

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

After almost a year into the challenging times of pandemic it is heartening to note that the ITC has carried out its work with an unwavering determination and commitment in supporting the SMEs which already struggled pre pandemic to build back better and stronger.

We wish to commend the ITC for its achievements over the past years. The ITC has demonstrated time and again its added value in line with the SDGs by contributing to the sustainable and inclusive development of SMEs as highlighted by the ITC Executive Director in her opening remark.

We are confident that the next strategic plan 2022-2025 is a comprehensive guide to the ITC's work in an increasingly complex and challenging environment where the impact of the pandemic will add to the impact of climate change.

Pakistan has been a beneficiary and continues to benefit from the ITC's technical assistance projects and we thank the ITC for their continuous support.

Today is also the opportunity for us to thank the donors without whom the ITC would not be able to deploy its activities for those in need of support especially in these challenging times. We wish to encourage your support to the ITC's work as the report put before us today speaks volume of the importance of the ITC in the developing world.

I thank you Chair