

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIA DURING THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE  
ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2024 HELD AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

*Protocols...*

*At the very outset, the delegation of Nigeria would like to commend the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) for convening the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) on the International Trade Centre (ITC). We appreciate the comprehensive Report of the ITC under the leadership of Ms. Hamilton Coker, Executive Director of the Centre and the concerted efforts in fostering appreciate the Executive Director of ITC, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton for her comprehensive Report and the concerted efforts to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development, as well as enhancing the resilience of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in an era of increasing fragility.*

*2. Permit me to also convey profound appreciation to the ITC for implementing and delivering practical trade-related technical assistance through series of projects and initiatives that have supported the agribusiness sector and MSMEs in Nigeria. Furthermore, I would like to applaud the gender-transformative interventions in bolstering the economic empowerment of women.*

*3. As the value chain is pivotal for MSMEs to grow their businesses, diversify their production and obtain better*

revenues, we welcome ITCs initiatives in the area of trade data and information to facilitate cross-trade for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the inclusion of women in regional integration efforts. We also applaud the initiatives of fostering e-Commerce in MSMEs through the **'Inclusive Digital Entrepreneurship in the Agri-food Sector'** (IDEAS) aimed at enhancing market linkages, capacity building as well as technical and managerial skills of entrepreneurs particularly in the rural areas.

4. Indeed, ITC has, in spite of global economic realities, continued to contribute immensely to the accelerated attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even in vulnerable regions of the world. The highlighted case studies in the report are indeed very inspiring and pointers that all hands must be on deck to break out of the vicious cycle of fragility. Remarkably, ITC's work linked to the SDGs have fostered competitiveness, resilience and proved reliable in delivering its time-bound targets.

5. As I conclude, may I express warmest felicitations to the ITC on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We believe that by working together, we can overcome the challenges we face and create a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable world. We look forward to continued collaboration with the ITC to further strengthen these efforts.

I thank you.