



PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN TO THE WTO

**57th session of the JAG
20 July 2023**

Chair,
Executive Director,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,

It is an honor to be here today and to have the opportunity to speak at the 57th meeting of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre. I would like to commend Ambassador Dwarka-Canabady's insightful leadership and wish you, Chair, all the best and our cooperation.

As one of the larger beneficiaries of ITC projects, let me first convey my gratitude and congratulations to the ITC for its achievements in the year 2022, and some so well show-cased this morning.

ITC's initiatives are valuable in the context of a global economy which is struggling to get back on its feet, in a year where building back after the pandemic was a major challenge compounded by the impacts of climate change and conflicts. Pakistan's case being even more intense given the balance of payment crisis, driven by our common global challenges but compounded by the floods that put a third of the country under water and affected almost 30 million people.

Pakistan would like to acknowledge the donors who supported ITC's work in 2022.

Chair, as an outgoing Ambassador, I would like to extend some advice, which, keeping in the spirit of this being an Advisory Group, I would not label as totally unsolicited!

The impactful development work depends on several elements, the key ones being predictability, consistency and commitment in policies of ALL the development partners. Unfortunately, given the power relations and asymmetries within this partnership, on the balance, the onus for ensuring that these critical elements are not compromised, lies with the donors and the implementing agencies. In cases where important projects or programs are discontinued, it is critical for institutional learning, to inquire into why that has happened. Mostly funding constraints are cited which violates the elements for success. We suggest that such cases are scrutinized more deeply with a spirit of learning and improving, and thus enabling the development partnerships to deliver effectively and have good models for scaling up. Chair, if we are to get back on track for achieving the SDGs we need to be on a steep learning curve.

I believe the well-founded relationship of Pakistan with ITC has immense potential to grow further and I have full confidence that future partnerships will enable Pakistan grow as a more resilient economy in the face of the spectrum of challenges we face and become a robust economy so as to benefit fully from the global trading system.

Once again congratulations to the ITC for its achievements in the much-needed work it carried out in these challenging times and our gratitude to the donors for their support despite going through a rough patch themselves.

Thank you