



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**Statement by South Sudan at the 57th annual session of the Joint Advisory
Group of the International Trade Centre (ITC)**

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, allow me to first congratulate you for presiding over this 57th Annual Joint Advisory Group meeting of ITC.

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of South Sudan acknowledges the importance of the trade development technical assistance that the International Trade Centre (ITC) provides to its beneficiary countries globally, including to the Republic of South Sudan. We are pleased with the progress of implementation and achievements made thus far of the various projects ITC has been implementing in South Sudan, including the South Sudan Jobs Creation and Trade Development Project and the National Export and Investment Strategy Development Project.

We recognize the support ITC provided to thousands of producers and traders of fruits and vegetables in the area of productive capacity building, improving compliance to food safety and quality standards as well as in business and entrepreneurship skills development. We also appreciate the various efforts made whereby capacities have been built for the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards, Food Safety Advisers have been trained and deployed to support producers and processors, and a professional Food Safety Association of South Sudan was created and became operational. We value the support provided in promoting South Sudanese fruits and vegetables through the organization of

a series trade fairs and business to business events, which were important engagements in creating markets for the local produce and producers.

In terms of policy and strategy, the support provided to the Government through developing a new National Quality Policy, and a national export and investment strategy including sector development strategies for Fruits and Vegetables, Gum Arabic, Oilseeds, Natural Honey, Hides and Skins, and Transport and Trade facilitation, respond very well to the strategic objectives of the Government specified in the South Sudan National Development Plan (2021-2024), which among others include the reviewing and updating of policies and strategies for development of the agricultural sector and the improving of the quality of industrial and agricultural output to exportable standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the European Union for providing the funding for the South Sudan Jobs Creation and Trade Development project which enabled the support provided to thousands of fruit and vegetable producers and traders. We also thank the African Export - Import Bank for financing the National Export and Investment strategy development project to facilitate South Sudan's integration within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by fostering trade and investment through a combination of effective strategic planning, improved national and subnational government technical support and private sector leadership capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The projects ITC is implementing are important initiatives in fostering private sector and economic development in South Sudan and hence are important for sustainable development. They benefit our youth and women by