

UK Intervention at ITC Joint Advisory Group.

The UK would like to echo the thanks to the outgoing JAG Chair, Ambassador Dwarka-Canabady and welcome Ambassador Theodore to the role.

The United Kingdom fully supports the donor statement delivered by our friend from Germany. 2022 was another challenging year, as the world grappled with what the Executive Director refers to as the “four Cs” of COVID, climate, conflict and cost-of living. And yet the ITC has continued to deliver impact and results.

That is one reason they are such a close and trusted partner of the UK – their ability to deliver results, even in challenging circumstances. We also particularly value ITC’s ability to ‘get close’ to what works for business, and bring realism to our key policy instruments. The UK Trade Partnerships Programme (UKTP) with the ITC, for instance, helps us to understand what businesses need in order to take full advantage of our new – simpler and more generous – trade preferences scheme, the developing countries trading scheme, which came into force on 19 June this year. I was very pleased that the UK has more than doubled its funding to UKTP this year to £4million which will help even more SME firms take the first step to trade internationally and access new markets.

And the UK-ITC partnership on trade and gender is one we are extremely proud of. Tackling gender inequality is a core part of the UK Government’s mission, and our approach to trade and economic development. The UK was delighted to participate in the launch of Bangladesh’s SheTrades Hub in March this year, and will be continuing support to SheTrades Outlook. I look forward to discussing the impacts of this work in the informal working group on Trade and Gender, which I now have the pleasure of co-chairing.

Chair, to conclude, allow me to reiterate the UK’s full support for the ITC’s programme of work, and our full support for the Executive Director. Thank you.