

ITC 58TH JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING : ZIMBABWE STATEMENT

Zimbabwe joins others in congratulating the Executive Director Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton and her team, for yet again steering the ITC ship in 2023, amid the never-ending global trade challenges. Supply chains have continued to be disrupted and impacting negatively on businesses especially the constituency serviced by the ITC. We appreciate the resilience of the Team in continuing to implement projects that are assisting our Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, who in most cases are driving our economies, especially in Zimbabwe.

We also want to express our profound gratitude for the continued support that the ITC is getting from their cooperating partners. It is through the funding by various donors that ITC is able to implement projects that are helping communities, particularly women and the youths, venture into the mainstream economic activities.

We note with appreciation, the milestones that ITC has covered from its inception. The year 2024 is therefore special as ITC will be celebrating 60 years of changing trade to change lives. In Zimbabwe we have witnessed that change with the development of our micro, small and medium enterprises, which have become the engine for economic growth. We appreciate the collaboration that ITC has had with our National Competitiveness Commission wherein support was given to carry out a Competitiveness Survey to identify gaps in the development of this sector. The report of the survey was launched in 2023 and ITC was represented by its Deputy Executive Director.

Zimbabwe will continue to support the implementation of the ITC Strategic Plan 2022-2025 which, through the five impact areas that include sustainable and resilient value chains, inclusive trade, green trade, digital trade and regional integration and South-South trade and investment should meet the SDGs. We have no doubt that amidst global challenges, the resilience and commitment of ITC as an organisation will result in positive achievements on projects embarked as reflected in the 2023 annual report.

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is critical as we approach 2030. These SDGs represent a universal global development agenda by 2030 and the ITC support programme to the SDGs speaks volume of the work being done.