



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
delivered by Ms. Elena Craveț, First Secretary,
at the 57th Session of the International Trade Centre
Joint Advisory Group**

(Geneva, 20 July 2023)

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Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by congratulating Ambassador Nadia Theodore, (Canada) on her election as the Chair of the 57th session of the Joint Advisory Group. I would also like to thank Executive Director Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton for her leadership and the work of her team over the past year, as well as for the excellent preparations of the current session of the JAG.

Madame Pamela Coke-Hamilton,

My delegation thanks the ITC Secretariat for the preparation of the Annual Report, which captures the ITC's work, the results achieved and the impact of ITC's projects on the ground. We are pleased to note that the technical assistance capacity building and market intelligence delivered by ITC in 2022 and half of the 2023 year has increased compared to the year before. This is a clear indication of the fact that ITC's work and performance is of top quality and is much needed and appreciated.

In terms of funds, although ITC experienced a reduction in signed agreements for voluntary contributions from \$94.332 million in 2021 to \$58.714 million in 2022, however it is encouraging that the report mentions that the liquidity of the organization remains healthy.

ITC's trade-related technical assistance has proved to be very helpful in assisting developing countries and countries with small vulnerable economies as Moldovas to increase trade and investment through the development of the private sector and trade support institutions and use of different modern market tools. The special focus of ITC's activities in providing entrepreneurial opportunities for MSMEs, particularly those managed by women, young people and your projects oriented to poor communities are also to be highly commended.

We also support the demand-driven approach which guides the effective implementation of the ITC's mandate. The project initiatives being tailored to address the specific needs of the countries is instrumental in providing technical assistance and expertise in the areas where Governments are in most need of targeted support.

Madame Chair,

In the context of the implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, as well as taking into account Moldova's acceding member status to EU since the last year, our Government is committed to reforms across all sectors of our economy, further contributing to removing all barriers to cross-border trade and integrating Moldovan companies, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises, into the European economic flow of goods and services. In order for our businesses to best benefit from the current status, the Government endeavors to further enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs and address specific constraints at the national, institutional and enterprise levels.

In this context I would like to express sincere thanks to the International Trade Center (ITC) which organized this year a joint activity with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova and conducted a comprehensive analysis of non-tariff barriers to trade, which will certainly help our stakeholders and decision-makers to determine concrete actions and recommendations that will contribute to reducing such obstacles to trade and assist us to further address the identified problems.

We are further interested in broadening our specific cooperation with ITC. In this context, my delegation is pleased to note that 2022 was a very productive year for the ITC-Moldova cooperation. In particular, a number of ITC-led initiatives have been finalized with a view to enhance MSME's export competitiveness and cross-border capacities, as well as strengthen the national institutional capacities and framework for trade facilitation.

In terms of our further collaborations, we are also interested in building upon the work that has been done based on the EU-funded project under EU4Business initiative and focus on improving the Eastern Partnership Trade Helpdesk by connecting it with other available ITC tools as the Global Trade Helpdesk platform. We are also willing to explore other potential areas of collaboration in Digitalization, trade and investment facilitation, enhancing trade in services statistics and of course we would appreciate future collaboration to promote various tools of market access and trade facilitation among the Republic of Moldova's businesses.

On an additional note I would like to mention that ITC complementary support provided to Moldova in the context of multiple crises our country confronts against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine initiated by Russia would be of a particular importance.

We hope that with the support of the development partners the ongoing initiatives and as well as those to be identified, will continue to show concrete results and will transform in tangible projects.

To conclude, the Republic of Moldova looks forward to continue working closely with ITC and reaffirms its continued support to ITC's overall mission to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

I thank you.

