

**Statement of Ukraine at the 56nd Joint Advisory Group meeting of  
the International Trade Centre**

*(Geneva, Switzerland, 13 September 2022)*

**Thank you, Mr. Chair for giving me the floor,**

- First of all, on behalf of Ukrainian delegation I would like to join the others in congratulating you, Madame Chair, on your assumption of the Chair position of this session. We would also like to thank the Chair of the 55<sup>th</sup> session Mr. Paul Bekkers for his leadership.
- We would like to thank the International Trade Centre (ITC) for organizing the 56th JAG session and all the distinguished speakers for their statements and presentations made today.
- We also thank the ITC Executive Director, Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton and her team for the presentation of a very comprehensive report on the work of the organization in the course of the last year. We reconfirm our appreciation of all efforts undertaken by ITC in promoting economic development, sustainable trade and women empowerment.
- Ukraine has been benefiting from a long-standing and successful cooperation with ITC with the help of donors for many years. In 2021 three projects were being implemented by ITC in Ukraine with the funding provided by the EU and Sweden. In 2022 there are two projects left. In this regard we are grateful to the donors for their support and for continuation of funding regardless of the risks and the need for a change in approaches due to Russian aggression against Ukraine. One of the good examples here is the project which is in place since 2016 titled 'Linking Ukrainian SMEs in the Fruits and Vegetables Sector to Global and Domestic Markets and Value Chains' and was being implemented in the south of Ukraine, mainly in Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odessa regions. The WTO Members may know these cities very well by now as Kherson is now under the occupation by the Russian Federation and Mykolaiv is being heavily bombarded by Russian military troops. The ITC and donors managed to make necessary changes to adopt to the new circumstances and to continue giving support the producers and exporters on the Government controlled territories.
- Ukraine is further interested in possible technical support and ITC's expertise to sustain and assist Ukraine during the war and afterwards. For example, by preparing a course or training on readjusting to conducting business in times of

war; assisting in further integration into supply chains; development of alternative logistical solutions in light of the blockade of ports.

- We note some relevant work of ITC in conflict and post conflict areas, among others in developing new skills for refugees, and supporting women and girls. We acknowledge that ITC has committed to deepen the work on the economic empowerment of women, youth and refugees. In addition, in December 2021, ITC has joined UN Action Network Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action). Given the fact that Ukrainian women have been exposed to various form of violence and their rights have been blatantly violated by the Russian troops, atrocities of which have been witnessed by the whole world, we are looking for ways to support them and empowering them will be one of the priority areas for future cooperation.
- Ukraine is also further interested in projects that would attract investments for establishment and development of 'green' businesses. As many entrepreneurs are relocating and/or are starting business from scratch relevant expertise, training and assistance in securing sustainable investments would be very beneficial.
- Ukraine appreciates the ITC's partnership and is looking forward to continuing its cooperation with ITC and the donors, especially in the areas indicated above.
- Thank you very much for your attention.