



International  
Trade  
Centre

ITC SUBMISSION

DOHA PROGRAMME OF ACTION (LDC 5)  
ZERO DRAFT

6 AUGUST 2021

## ITC SUBMISSION – LDC5 OUTCOME DOCUMENT ZERO DRAFT

ITC is pleased to submit the following contribution for Member States' consideration, based on the zero draft of the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries.

As the joint development agency of the UN and the World Trade Organization, ITC works to support the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries, including the least developed countries. We believe that empowering MSMEs to be resilient and competitive internationally and to act as agents of change in structural transformation are necessary for inclusive and sustainable development in LDCs.

We commit to supporting the Doha Programme of Action through tailor-made solutions aligned predominantly to the following two focus areas of the zero draft:

- III. Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity
- IV. Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration

### Suggested language for section III. Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity

ITC recommends the following language, related to **paragraph 128** of the zero draft:

<b>Para 128 Current formulation (zero draft)</b>	We will promote micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises by ensuring full and equal access to financial services and products, supporting them to enter into national, regional and global value chains and support them for digitalization and tapping the potentials of e-commerce.
<b>Suggested formulation</b>	<i>We recognize the importance of resilient micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurs for sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We will ensure increased market opportunities and full and equal access to financial services and products for micro, small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurs from LDCs in order to create sustainable growth and decent jobs, particularly for women and youth through their beneficial integration in national, regional and global value chains. Strengthening the resilience of LDC MSMEs will require enhanced sector and enterprise competitiveness through skills building, market intelligence, access to finance, investment, and digitalization. Structural transformation of LDCs requires a conducive business ecosystem with strong and well-equipped business support organizations and business friendly policies, regulatory frameworks and export strategies to facilitate MSMEs access to markets. We request the International Trade Centre (ITC) and other UN agencies to strengthen their work in empowering MSMEs and entrepreneurs in LDCs with a view to bringing about inclusive growth and prosperity.</i>

ITC stands ready to provide further background and explanations to substantiate the suggested formulation. We also look forward to working with partners across the United Nations and beyond in the run up to LDC 5 to support inclusive and sustainable development in LDCs.

#### Contact

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