

WTO World cotton day – Partners’ conference (h.14.30-16.30)

Announcements of prospective support in favour of cotton value chain development

Excellences, delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me express our gratitude to WTO for inviting UNIDO to join the celebration of the World Cotton Day. This celebration represents a major recognition by the United Nations General Assembly on the importance of the cotton as a global value chain.

As we all know, the cotton value chain is extremely diversified and the relevance of the cotton industry goes much beyond single countries’ boundaries. Therefore, it is imperative that development partners, governments and private sector work closely together and especially in Africa. UNIDO has been supporting the cotton sector at a promoting policies and quality standards, to facilitating access to technicians and operators.

to the “West African Quality Programme”, a regional programme to develop quality infrastructure to facilitate intra-regional and international development of an “African” quality standard for cotton fibre, the building of capacity of local laboratories to measure and calibrate the “African Quality Programme” started in 2001 and soon will give birth to a new

developing a large intervention in collaboration with the Government of Mali. The project will support the development of sustainable cotton production in Mali, with the scope of mitigating environmental risks and supporting all sub-sectors of the cotton value chain. p r o m

As indicated, UNIDO holds technical competence in modernization of the entire cotton value chain, including the textile and garment sectors where most of the value added and employment is generated. One of UNIDO's most recent examples in such work is a project in Armenia. Through the application of innovative approaches