



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
11th Session, 19 to 21 July 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

**Round Table on "Effectiveness of Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
extended to young competition agencies"¹**

**Tuesday, 19 July 2011 (16:30 - 18:00)
Room XII (third floor)**

Most competition agencies in developing countries and economies in transition were established 5 to 10 years ago and continue to face challenges in establishing strong foundations and effectively enforcing the law. Since the early 1990s, international organizations and more advanced competition agencies have provided capacity-building and technical assistance to young agencies to help them overcome these challenges. It appears useful to take stock and evaluate the effectiveness of these programmes. In this context, the round table will discuss the following issues:

(a) Are there types or timing of technical assistance that are more effective in raising the domestic political status of a competition agency?

(b) The optimal duration for a technical assistance project in competition law and policy to be effective has been estimated at ten years based on U.S. experience in providing this type of assistance. Do member States share the same experience?

(c) Cooperation between donors, providers, and recipients is beneficial. What can be done to make this cooperation win-win for each stakeholder? How can coordination be done in a context where there seems to be competition among providers of technical assistance to developing countries and economies in transition?

(d) Given that the impact of technical assistance on recipient authority performance appears to vary systematically with its absorptive capacity and socio-economic development, how can the absorptive capacity of the recipient agency be improved?

(e) Planning and evaluation of the effectiveness of technical assistance programs has been pointed out as essential to enhance the enforcement capabilities of a young competition agency. What should be evaluated, that is to say, what are the indicators of success or failure? When is evaluation most useful, either for the recipient or the donor? Do member States have experience of changes made as a result of earlier evaluations?

The roundtable debate will entail two parts. Part I will address the problems related to the needs assessment and the absorptive capacity of beneficiary countries. Part II will focus on how to promote an enabling environment that ensures effectiveness of technical assistance.

¹ UNCTAD (2011), Effectiveness of capacity building and technical assistance extended to young competition agencies, Note by UNCTAD secretariat. TB/B/C.I/CLP/11

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WORK PROGRAMME

16:30 - 16:35 **Introductory Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat**

16:35 - 16:55 **Keynote Speech**

Dr. Stanley Wong, International competition law counsel,
StanleyWongGlobal (SW Law Corporation) former Member &
Director of Mergers and Monopolies Divisions, Competition
Authority (Ireland)

16:55 - 17:40 **Panel Discussion**

Part I: Needs assessment and the absorptive capacity of beneficiary countries

- Ms. Marie Louise Senou, Director Competition Directorate, Benin
- Mr. George Lipimile, COMESA
- Dr. Luis Humberto Guzmán, Head of the Competition Authority, Nicaragua

Part II: Promotion of an enabling environment that contributes to the effectiveness of technical assistance

- Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, Chairperson of the Competition Commission, Pakistan
- Dr. Hanspeter Tschäni, SECO, Switzerland
- Dr. Fernando de Magalhães Furlan, Chairman of Competition and Antitrust Council - CADE, Brasil

17:40 - 18:00

Interactive Debate

The panel discussion will be followed an interactive debate including interventions by

- The European Union;
- WAEMU;
- Tunisia;
- United States;
- GIZ, and
- [...]

Delegates wishing to take part in this roundtable are kindly invited to inform the Secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Yves Kenfack (yves.kenfack@unctad.org, Tel. +41229175612)