TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

- Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition law and policy and on Consumer protection law and policy-

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UNCTAD’s mandates on Competition and on Consumer protection based in instruments adopted by the UN General Assembly

✓ Two unique sets of recommendations for member States’ Governments, civil society organizations, business.
✓ Focal point for Competition and Consumer Policies within the UN system.
• **Substantive sessions:**

- **Keynote speech** by Prof. Caron Beaton-Wells on “Competition in the Digital Economy New Realities, New Thinking”;

- Round table on **“Competition issues in the digital economy”**, focusing on challenges brought by dominant digital platforms;

- Round Table on **“Competition issues in the health sector”**, facilitated by the South Africa Competition Commission;

- Round table on **“International cooperation of competition authorities in the fight against cross-border anticompetitive practices”**, following the Secretariat’s report on the UNCTAD Discussion Group on International Cooperation;

- **Presentation and consensus** on the **Guiding Policies and Principles under Section F of the UN Set on Competition on International Cooperation**, drafted by the Discussion
✓ Guiding Policies and Procedures aim:
   • to promote mutual trust and understanding of each other’s legal framework
   • to facilitate contact between Competition Authorities and
   • clarify what is possible especially for young and less experienced Competition Authorities.

✓ Non-binding, can be used as a "guide" for communication;

✓ It includes recommendations and addresses the role of UNCTAD in facilitating cooperation under the Section F of the UN Set.
Eighteenth session IGE Competition

- **NEW**
  
  - Legal assessment of Belarus’ new Competition law;
  
  - Legal assessment of the regional Competition provisions of the Eurasian Competition Commission.
  
- **UNCTAD Secretariat Report on capacity building in the field of Competition law and policy;**

- **UNCTAD Model Law on Competition - Revision of Chapters IX and X of Part 2 - Commentaries.**

- **Update of the Virtual repository of International Best Practices (in cooperation with Peru).**
Eighteenth session IGE Competition – Agreed Conclusions:

- Highlight of regional and international cooperation in the enforcement of competition law and policy;

- Dissemination of the Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition regarding International Cooperation before its submission for approval to the 8th Review Conference in 2020;

- New issue for discussion: Strengthening Competition in the Digital Economy;

- Revision and update of Chapters III and IV of the Model Law on Competition, Part 2 – Commentaries.
Eighteenth session IGE Competition: Competition items for the 8th. Review Conference


- Round tables on:
  - International cooperation under section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices: Adoption of the Guiding policies and procedures.
  - Competitive neutrality;
  - Combating cross-border cartels.

- Secretariat report on Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on Competition law and policy.
- Voluntary peer review of Competition law and policy: West African Economic and Monetary Union
Eighteenth session
IGE Competition

- **Wide participation and interest**: 362 registered participants from 84 countries: 223 Government representatives, 43 academics, 28 NGOs, 22 intergovernmental organizations and 14 private sector representatives. Two Ministers: Belarus and Eurasian Economic Union. First participation of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Brunei Darussalam Competition Commission, Ecowas Competition Authority and Saudi Arabia Competition Authority.

- **Gender balance**: The IGE Competition was chaired by a woman, Chief Executive Officer of the Competition Authority of Botswana. 39 per cent of participants were women and 61 per cent men.

- **Delivery of research, analysis and tools**: Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition

- **Two new Legal assessments** of the national Competition rules of Belarus and of the regional Competition rules of Eurasian Economic Commission.

- **Very strong mandate**: appreciation of the UNCTAD discussion group work on international cooperation and endorsement of the Guiding Policies and Procedures document and request to disseminate this document.

- **New technical cooperation requests**: CEMAC, ECOWAS, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Seychelles, Uzbekistan.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY

Geneva Palais des Nations, 10-12 July 2019
Fourth session

- Substantive sessions:
- Keynote speech by Prof. Dr. Claudia Lima Marques on “Perspectives for Consumer Protection in the XXI Century”;
- Round table on “Contribution of consumer protection to sustainable consumption”, with speakers from academia, Consumers International, UNECE and ISO, apart from Consumer Protection agencies;
- UNCTAD Secretariat Report on Capacity Building on Consumer Protection law and policy;
Voluntary peer review of the consumer protection law and policy of Indonesia

- Reviewers were representatives of Consumer Protection Agencies of Brazil, India and the European Commission;

- This Voluntary Peer Review was facilitated by UNCTAD supported by GIZ, the German Development Agency;

- UNCTAD proposed Indonesia technical assistance to implement the Peer Review recommendations as a follow-up.
Fourth session IGE Consumer Protection


- Secretariat presentations on
  - Virtual catalogue of international best practices.

- Update on the implementation of the actionable agreed conclusions of the 3rd session of the IGE on Consumer Protection Law and Policy.

https://unctadwcpm.org/
Agreed conclusions include:

- Renewal of the mandate for Working Group on Consumer protection in E-commerce to provide policy recommendation for developing countries;

- Renewal of the mandate for Working Group on Consumer Product Safety to continue highlighting best practices to guide Consumer protection/Product safety agencies;

- New issue for discussion: Strengthening Consumer protection in the Digital Economy.
Fourth session: Consumer Protection agenda items for the 8th. Review Conference

- Round tables on
  - Strengthening Consumer protection in the digital economy;
  - International enforcement cooperation among Consumer Protection authorities;
  - Improving Consumer product safety worldwide. Good data for good policy;
- Secretariat report on Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on Consumer protection;
- Voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy: Peru.
• **Wide participation and interest:** 358 registered participants; 83 member States; 20 international organizations, 37 NGOs, 32 academia, 16 private sector; 3 Ministers: Brazil, Germany, Indonesia; Participation from Consumer Protection agencies of Australia, Japan and Saudi Arabia for the first time.

• **Gender awareness:** 52% of speakers/officers were women and 48% men. As for participants registered, 59% men and 41% women.

• **Delivering research, analysis and tools:** publications of [UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection](https://www.un.org) made available in all official languages.

• 7 side-events organized by participants – academia, NGOs and private sector, Consumer Protection agencies;

• **Follow-up/parallel events:**
  ○ New Trust fund agreement with China Silk Road Group to deliver blockchain-based Online Dispute Resolution to consumers (2.5M USD), 10 July
Competition and Consumer Policies - AGENDA

Reports on:
- Implementation of the UN Set on Competition;

Roundtables on:
- Consumer product safety data for policymaking;
- Consumer protection enforcement cooperation in e-commerce;
- Competitive neutrality;
- Combatting cross-border cartels.

- Voluntary Peer Review on Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Peru (third Review);
- Voluntary Peer Review on Competition Law and Policy of WAEMU-UEMOA

- UNCTAD World Consumer Protection Map
- Revised Chapters III and IV of the UNCTAD Model Law on Competition, Part 2 - Commentaries

Session on Strengthening Consumer protection and Competition in the Digital Economy

Session on International Cooperation for Competition law enforcement - discussion of the Guiding Principles and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition

Report on Capacity building and Technical assistance on Consumer protection and Competition

Resolution of the Conference: clusters of work for UNCTAD in the fields of Competition and Consumer Protection in the following 5 years
THANK YOU!

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