Summary of the Survey Results on Competition

A survey was distributed among Arab countries in 2019, asking them to identify the key competition topics of concern for the countries to help ESCWA, UNCTAD, and the OECD focus on the countries’ specific needs with their initiatives.

The countries were asked to indicate their interest in a list of different topics, rating each of them on a Likert scale from 1 to 5 (1 indicating little interest, 5 indicating strong interest). Participants were also encouraged to suggest other topics of interest to them that were not mentioned in the survey.

Seven countries responded to the survey from the Arab region.

The following charts show the respective average score for each of the listed topics.
A. The survey revealed that Arab countries show a variety in interest in different **competition topics and concepts**. Among the eight suggested topics, the participants showed highest levels of interest for abuses of dominance, e-commerce, competition advocacy, and fines/sanctions/leniency. They also showed interest in the other four suggested topics as can be seen in the chart below.
B. Overall, the survey indicates that Arab countries are very interested in **capacity training** programs that relate to competition topics. A topic that stands out in particular is digital economy competition assessment, though the participants also showed high levels of interest for the other topics suggested, including cartel investigation techniques, competition economics, market studies, fighting bid rigging in public procurement, etc.
C. The survey shows that Arab countries also show interest in **reviews and assessments** of their specific national circumstances and jurisdictions undertaken by competition policy experts. Participants indicated highest interest in tools for judges, though they also indicated interest in the other topics suggested by the OECD as illustrated below.

D. The participants’ responses on which **sectoral seminars** they could be interested in varied greatly. Consensus was reached for the topic digital economy, though, as participants indicated strong interest in a seminar covering this broad topic. Other seminars of interest include seminars for the financial sector and the telecommunications and electronic communications sector.