



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy  
18<sup>th</sup> Session, 10 - 12 July 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

### **Discussions on International Cooperation**

**Wednesday, 10 July 2019 (15:30 - 18:00)**  
**Palais des Nations, Room XVII (First Floor)**

In accordance to the agreed conclusions of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the IGE Competition of July 2018, member States proposed to the Secretariat the discussion of two agenda items during the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the IGE Competition, namely: Agenda items a) "Report of the work undertaken by the discussion group on international cooperation"; and agenda item c) "Boosting international cooperation of competition authorities in the fight against cross-border anticompetitive practices".

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the Agreed conclusions of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Competition Law and Policy at its sixteenth session (5-7 July 2017), member States requested the UNCTAD secretariat to facilitate the establishment of a discussion group on international cooperation (DGIC). The mandate in paragraph 9 states:

*"9. Requests the UNCTAD secretariat to facilitate member States to establish a discussion group on international cooperation, open to member States participation on a voluntary basis, to pursue the exchanges and the debate on the modalities for facilitating cooperation under Section F of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices and report to the seventeenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts."*

Earlier, at the Sixth Review Conference in November 2010, UNCTAD member States explored the possible benefits of having a "default" set of procedural rules to implement consultations pursuant to section F.4. The following reasons supported this proposal: (a) the consultations would offer the State another mechanism for cooperation, in addition to formal and informal networks and technical assistance; (b) having such rules would provide predictability for member States; and (c) UNCTAD could have a role in providing conference facilities, technical assistance and monitoring the agreements, if requested by the parties.

The IGE in its seventeenth Session extended the mandate of the discussion group as follows; *".....calls for the extension of the mandate of the discussion group on international cooperation for another year so as to continue the work of discussion group on international cooperation members on a voluntary basis and report on its activities to the eighteenth session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy"*

This session will be divided into two parts; (i) an introductory part which takes stock of the work done by UNCTAD Secretariat in promoting international cooperation and to give member states and/or regional economic groupings an opportunity to share their experiences and; (ii) an overview of the process and the results of the work done by the DGIC in the last two years and presentation of the UNCTAD, draft report on **"Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition"** to member states for discussions and agree on the way forward.

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### **WORK PROGRAMME**

- 15:30 - 16:00**      **Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat (Overview of the Secretariat work on International Cooperation)**
- 16:00 - 16:15**      **Presentation by UNCTAD Secretariat (Overview on the work of DGIC and Presentation of the draft text on *“Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition”*)**
- 16:15 – 16:50**      **Panel Discussions on the DGIC Report.**
- 16:50 – 18:00**      **What next for the DGIC work and the draft text on *Guiding Principles and Procedures*.**

Delegates who would like to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat by contacting Elizabeth Gachuri ([elizabeth.gachuri@un.org](mailto:elizabeth.gachuri@un.org)) or Pierre Horna ([pierre.horna@unctad.org](mailto:pierre.horna@unctad.org))