



Eleventh Meeting of the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform
17-18 December 2020
Virtual Meeting

UNCTAD is celebrating the tenth year of the Research Partnership Platform (RPP) this year. RPP was created in 2010 to seek responses to the challenges in competition and consumer protection by bringing together academia on an international platform and engaging in joint research and policy analysis.

The world is undergoing unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered what seems to be a long-lasting economic crisis due to successive lockdown measures in many countries. Governments have been trying to address the economic impact of these measures as well as the health crisis measures by providing financial support to companies and putting in place social policy measures to protect consumers. In this process, we have witnessed the relevance of competition and consumer laws and policies since the beginning of the crisis early this year.

In this year's RPP meeting, we will discuss the role of competition and consumer laws and policies in a fair and inclusive economic recovery. In the first session, we will discuss the role of competition policy, seeking answers to questions on whether and how competition policy can complement industrial policy and other economic recovery measures being taken. We will end the first session by a book launch, "Fighting Cross-border Cartels", by Pierre Horna.

In the second session, we will discuss the protection of online consumers in an increasingly "digital" environment accelerated by the global pandemic and how consumer protection policy and law functioning in coping with the challenges. We will explore the recent developments of consumer policy and law in the way of providing protection and redress to digital consumers, especially to the vulnerable groups, and the empowerment measures equipped by new technology.

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Agenda

17 December 2020

Session I: The role of competition policy in a fair and inclusive economic recovery

- 14:00 - 14:10** **Opening remarks** by Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD
- 14:10 - 15:30** **Panel discussion**
Moderator: Ms. Ebru Gokce Dessemond, UNCTAD
- Prof. Eleanor Fox, Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation, New York University School of Law
 - Dr. Thando Vilakazi, Director, Executive Director, Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED), University of Johannesburg
 - Dr. Alexey Ivanov, Director, Skolkovo Institute for Law and Development, Higher School of Economics, Moscow
 - Mr. Thomas Cheng, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong
 - Prof. Paulo Furquim de Azevedo, Center for Regulation and Democracy at Insper, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 15:30 – 15:45** **Interactive debate**
- 15:45 - 16:00** **Book launch**
“Fighting Cross-Border Cartels: The Perspective of the Young and Small Competition Authorities” (Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2020) by Dr. Pierre Horna, Legal Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

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Session II: Protection of online consumers

14:00 - 14:10 Introductory remarks by UNCTAD

14:10 - 15:30 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Dr. Ying Yu, UNCTAD

- Prof. Claudia Lima Marques, School of Law, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- Prof. Christine Riefa, Law School, Brunel University London, UK
- Dr. Janet Hui Xue, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- Ms. Shivani Rachagan, Doctoral candidate at University of Malaya, Malaysia
- Mr. Robin Simpson, International Consumer Protection expert, UK
- Dr. Laura Best, Deputy Chairperson, National Consumer Tribunal, South Africa

15:30 – 16:00 **Interactive debate**