



# **UNCTAD-UNECE Regional Policy Dialogue**

---

Presentation of the UNCTAD Global  
Report

Rachel Burgess, Consultant  
[rbcompetitionlaw@gmail.com](mailto:rbcompetitionlaw@gmail.com)

# Overview

---

1. Competition issues arising for MSMEs during Covid-19
2. Competition law and policy responses – Global trends
3. Recommendations

# Covid-19 and Competition Issues

---

Dominance in  
digital markets

Collaboration

Failing Firms

Price Gouging

Level  
Playing Field

# Global Trends - Competition Policy & Law Responses

---

- Approval of **coordinated** activity, subject to time constraints, usually relating to essential goods or services
  - Published guidance e.g. Brazil, Singapore, EC
  - Informal guidance e.g. EC, US
  - Statutory exclusions e.g. UK
  - Authorisations e.g. Australia
  - Wider communication e.g. Fiji
- Competition authorities and policymakers working with MSMEs

# Recommendations for recovery of MSMEs

- ✓ Consider whether competition policy objectives and laws should allow for broader economic objectives
- ✓ Gradually lifting Covid-19 exceptions to competition law enforcement
- ✓ Providing minimum thresholds/ safe harbour guidelines/ exemptions for MSMEs
- ✓ Allow MSMEs to engage in collective bargaining
- ✓ Issue clear MSME guidance notes from competition authorities
- ✓ Re-assessing financial support schemes to MSMEs
- ✓ Increased engagement with informal sector MSMEs
- ✓ Understanding digital market structures that impact MSMEs



# Thank you

Rachel Burgess, Consultant

[rbcompetitionlaw@gmail.com](mailto:rbcompetitionlaw@gmail.com); [rachel.burgess@usq.edu.au](mailto:rachel.burgess@usq.edu.au)

[LinkedIn](#)