

10 July 2025, 16:30 - 18:00 (CEST)

Geneva, Switzerland

Venue: Room XIX, E-Building, Palais des Nations

Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection and competition law and policy

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) offers capacity-building and technical assistance on competition law and policy to developing countries, depending on received requests and resources availability. The Competition and Consumer Policies Branch at UNCTAD provides support in drafting and/or revising competition legislation, adopting implementation frameworks, as well as strengthening institutional capacities. By fostering fair competition and protecting consumer rights, these efforts help create more inclusive and efficient markets, ensuring that businesses compete on a level playing field while consumers benefit from greater choice, fair prices, and improved quality of goods and services.

The UNCTAD secretariat note (TD/RBP/CONF.10/5) reviews capacity-building and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection laws and policies delivered from 2020 to 2025, highlighting national and regional achievements while showing how priorities evolved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of digital platforms and the sustainability agenda. The note also outlined the future of technical cooperation based on UNCTAD strategy in these two areas.

This session aims to highlight the achievements reached over the last five years, sharing lessons learned from country-level interventions and regional collaborations.

Issues to consider for discussions

To facilitate this interactive discussion, the secretariat proposes the following questions:

- (i) Could you share notable impacts or improvements in your national or regional frameworks that arose from UNCTAD's technical cooperation, and how have they shaped your institutional approach to competition and consumer protection?
- (ii) In your view, how can UNCTAD improve or adapt its technical cooperation to better align with your current priorities and capacity-building needs?
- (iii) Looking ahead, which specific topics or issues (e.g., digital markets, sustainability, cross-border collaboration) would you like UNCTAD to prioritize in future technical cooperation activities?





Programme

16:30 - 16:40 **Presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat**

16:40 - 17:40 **Speakers**

- Ms. Sara Irun, Minister Secretary of Consumer Protection, Paraguay
- Ms. Blerta Rama, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation and Ms. Mimoza Kodhelaj, Director, Competition Surveillance in Productive Markets Directorate, Albanian Competition Agency, Albania
- Mr. Toussaint Arnel Bakala, Director General, National Competition Authority, Republic of the Congo
- Mr. Gegham Gevorgyan, Chairman, Competition Protection Commission, Armenia
- Mr. Miguel Semedo, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Competition Authority, Cabo Verde
- Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Coordinator, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

17:40 - 18:00 **Interactive debate**

Contact

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