



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
19th Session, 7 - 9 July 2021, Geneva, Switzerland and online

Competition Law, Policy and Regulation in the Digital Era

Thursday, 8 July 2021 (11:00 - 13:00)

Palais des Nations, Room XVIII (First Floor) and online (Interprefy)

Digital platforms are essential elements of today's economy. This has become even more evident since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The increasing use of online services allowed digital platforms to grow larger and more powerful out of the pandemic. Competition in digital markets has become a key issue at stake for Governments and competition authorities around the world. At UNCTAD, this issue has been researched and discussed in previous meetings.

Competition authorities around the world have been facing common challenges in law enforcement in digital markets. To address these challenges, competition authorities have taken initiatives varying from adopting new regulation to amending competition law. These recent developments show the proactive efforts made by competition authorities and Governments to restore competition and maintain markets open and accessible to rivals in the digital economy.

This session will explore recent competition cases, initiatives and developments in the digital economy, and discuss how to complement competition law and regulation to achieve fair competition in digital markets and ensure that these markets are fair, open and accessible to new entrants. The session will further address the interaction between competition law and policy and consumer protection and data protection.

Questions for discussion:

- (a) Does competition law and policy need to be complemented by regulation to restore fair competition in digital markets?
- (b) How can regulation contribute to achieving open and accessible digital markets?
- (c) How should competition authorities interact with Governments and other regulatory authorities in regulating digital markets?

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WORK PROGRAMME

11:00 - 11:10 **Presentation by the UNCTAD secretariat**

11:10 - 12:10 **Speakers**

- Ms. Florence Abebe, Assistant Chief Legal Officer, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Nigeria
- Ms. Patricia Sakowski, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative Council for Economic Defense, Brazil
- Mr. Lefu Xu, Deputy Director, Anti-monopoly Bureau, State Administration for Market Regulation, China
- Mr. Pierre Régibeau, Chief Competition Economist, Directorate General for Competition, European Commission
- Prof. Frédéric Jenny, Chairman, the OECD Competition Committee, and Professor, ESSEC Paris Business School (video address)

12:10 - 12:40 **Questions from the floor**

12:40 - 13:00 **Final remarks and closing**

Delegates who wish to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Ms. Ebru Gökçe (ebru.gokce@unctad.org) and Ms. Akari Yamamoto (akari.yamamoto@unctad.org).