



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy  
20<sup>th</sup> Session, 20 - 22 July 2022, Geneva, Switzerland and online

**Roundtable on:  
The role of competition law and policy in supporting micro, small and  
medium-sized enterprises during the economic recovery in the post-  
pandemic period**

**Thursday, 21 July 2022 (15:00 - 16:45)  
Palais des Nations, Room XVII and online**

The COVID-19 pandemic had a very negative impact in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across the world leading to heavy losses in revenue and shutdowns and increased vulnerability.<sup>1</sup> Competition Authorities took this into account, exceptionally exempting cooperation agreements between SMEs, providing guidance and engaging in competition advocacy to SMEs.

The high prevalence of SMEs as the economic backbone in developing countries makes this issue even more relevant to address to ensure a resilient post crisis recovery which is also in line with Agenda 2030 and SDGs.

Competition policy is essential to provide for a level playing field that allows for market access opportunities for micro and SMES and to promote competitiveness while pursuing consumer welfare “leaving no one behind post COVID-19”. Competition authorities have a key role to ensure that the economic recovery is not derailed by anticompetitive conducts and throughout the pandemic seek to ensure that markets remain open and dynamic.

As part of its COVID-19 response project funded by the United Nations Development Account named “Global Initiative towards post-Covid-19 resurgence of the MSME sector,” UNCTAD Competition and Consumer Policies Branch has been engaged in discussing with representatives from Competition Authorities and SME agencies how competition policies can support the resurgence of MSMEs post COVID-19 crisis.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See UNCTAD [Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and development: transitioning to a new normal](#) (UNCTAD/OSG/2020/1, 19 Nov 2020) and its update “Recovering but unevenly”, 31 March 2021.

<sup>2</sup> More information about this project is available at: <https://msme-resurgence.unctad.org/documents/global-policy-dialogue-gpd-post-covid-19-resurgence-msmes-and-competition-policy-1-3-dec>

## **The role of competition law and policy in supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises during the economic recovery in the post-pandemic period**

Thursday, 21 July 2022 (15:00 - 16:45)  
Palais des Nations, Room XVII and online

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

15:00 - 15:10 **Presentation by UNCTAD secretariat**

15:10 - 16:00 **Speakers**

- Mr. Julián Palacín, President of the National Institute for the Defense of Free Competition and Intellectual Property (INDECOPI), Peru
- Ms. Jihane Benyoussef, Vice President, Competition Council, Morocco
- Mr. Johannes Benjamin R. Bernabe, Commissioner and OIC, Philippines Competition Commission, Philippines
- Ms. Carolyne Ariokot, Manager for the Access and Usage pillar, Financial Sector Deepening, Uganda

16:00 - 16:45 **Questions from the floor**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Dr. Pierre Horna ([pierre.horna@un.org](mailto:pierre.horna@un.org)).