



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
21st Session, 5 - 7 July 2023, Geneva, Switzerland and online

Competition Law and Policy and Sustainability

Thursday, 7 July 2023 (10:00 - 12:00)

Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor) and online

The United Nations is leading efforts to foster sustainable development. Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.¹ Governments and businesses across the globe are called to strengthen their commitment to achieve the SDGs, which include supporting affordable and sustainable energy, promoting sustainable industrialization, and ensuring responsible consumption and production, as well as combatting climate change.

On the issue of competition and sustainability, UNCTAD held an “Ad Hoc” Expert Meeting on Competition, Consumer Protection and Sustainability in September 2022, where member States exchanged views and perspectives for encouraging sustainability initiatives on the one hand and ensuring market competition on the other hand. It also published the report on “Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for Sustainability”², which explored the interplay between competition law and sustainability and illustrated initiatives undertaken by competition authorities.

There is a need for concrete and clear guidance by competition authorities on what is admissible and what is not in competition terms, complemented by collaboration between competition authorities and other governmental bodies, and exchange of best practices between competition authorities in different jurisdictions. In this context, UNCTAD can play a significant role as a global forum to facilitate information exchange and dialogues.

During this roundtable, member States may wish to: (a) exchange information on recent developments and findings in the field of competition law and policy and sustainability; (b) discuss what the implications of sustainability actions on competition authorities in developing countries are; and (c) explore what kind of initiatives would be needed now and as next steps.

¹ A/RES/70/1.

² <https://unctad.org/publication/competition-and-consumer-protection-policies-sustainability>.

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WORK PROGRAMME

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

10:10 - 11:00 **Speakers**

- Mr. Osamu Igarashi, Deputy Director, Coordination Division, Japan Fair Trade Commission
- Dr. Frederic Jenny, Chairman, OECD Competition Committee
- Mr. David Anderson, Office Managing Partner, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
- Mr. Dirk Middelschulte, Global General Counsel Competition, Unilever

11:00 - 12:00 **Interactive debate**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Ms. Akari Yamamoto (akari.yamamoto@un.org) and Mr. Sung Kyoon Kim (sung.kim@un.org).