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**Minutes Fifth Meeting**  
**Working Group on modalities of UNCTAD voluntary peer review exercises, 21 June 2021**

The [Eighth United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection](#), held from 19 to 23 October 2020, decided to establish a “*working group on modalities of UNCTAD voluntary peer review exercises, open to member States on a voluntary basis, without any financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations, to discuss and improve existing procedures and methodology, to report respectively to the nineteenth and fifth sessions of the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts on Competition and Consumer Protection laws and policies.*” The Working Group held its fifth meeting on 21 June 2021 (at 14:00 CET).

1. The meeting was opened and moderated by the UNCTAD secretariat.
2. The UNCTAD secretariat recalled the outcome of the last (fourth) meeting of 3 May; as an annex to the [minutes of the fourth meeting](#), the UNCTAD Secretariat circulated the joint proposal from Australia (ACCC), Chile (TLC), Italy (AGCM), Mexico (Profeco, Cofece), Philippines (DTI), USA (DOJ, FTC) and Nelson Mandela University, together with its responses regarding budgetary and time implications.
3. The UNCTAD secretariat received comments to its responses from the signatories of the joint proposal. Mexico (IFT), Peru and Bangladesh also provided their comments. They were invited to present their comments.
4. The comments received were presented as follows:
  - a. The United States FTC presented the key features of the joint proposal and comments; which does not intend to incur any budgetary or time implications. For this purpose, it proposes adopting common language to obviate translation costs, and gives more involved role for peer reviewers in all parts of the process. The joint proposal suggests using OECD and ICN instruments as benchmarks for peer reviews.
  - b. Mexico (IFT) emphasized the importance of leveraging virtual means to reduce costs and widen participants, especially at the implementation stage, and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders at all stages of the process.
  - c. The UNCTAD Secretariat summarised comments from Peru and Bangladesh on their behalf. (which are annexed to these minutes)
  - d. Participants authorized the UNCTAD secretariat to circulate the latest comments received to all Working Group participants.
5. With regards to the joint proposal and comments, the UNCTAD secretariat underlined that 1) adopting a common language for all peer review stages might create a tension with the interest to ensure geographical balance among peer reviewers who may not have a working knowledge of the language of the peer reviewed country, and 2) that non-OECD and non-ICN members may not feel comfortable in being reviewed under OECD ICN recommendations and best practices.
6. The UNCTAD secretariat opened the floor for comments on what the Working Group wishes propose to the next meetings of Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on



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Consumer Protection and on Competition in July, especially whether participants would like to propose the extension of the mandate of this Working Group:

- a. Dr. Laura Best (Nelson Mandela University) supported the extension of the mandate of the Working Group, and also suggested expanding its mandate not only to the peer review exercises but also to the comparative good practices in the area of consumer protection.
  - b. The United States and Italy agreed with the extension of the mandate.
7. The UNCTAD secretariat confirmed that the extension of the mandate of this Working Group would be proposed to the IGEs. The UNCTAD secretariat also informed that a session on the reporting of this Working Group will take place in the fifth session of the IGE on Consumer Protection on 6 July at 10 a.m. Geneva time and the nineteenth session of the IGE on Competition on 7 July at 3 p.m. Geneva time, where the UNCTAD secretariat will give a short presentation of the report and that will be followed by the interactive floor discussion.
  8. The UNCTAD secretariat invited Working Group participants to register and participate online at the [fifth session of the IGE on Consumer Protection](#) (5-6 July 2021) and the [nineteenth session of the IGE on Competition](#) (7-9 July 2021).
  9. The UNCTAD secretariat informed that the minutes of these meeting would be uploaded in the Working Group subsite (<https://unctad.org/Topic/Competition-and-Consumer-Protection/working-group-on-voluntary-peer-reviews>).

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<b>Working Group on modalities of UNCTAD voluntary peer review exercises</b>		
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Meeting – List of Participants</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Mahammad Mammadzada	State Service for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market Control	Azerbaijan
Nayara Kazeoka Zago	Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE)	Brazil
Mareke Aden	Federal Ministry for Justice and Consumers	Germany
Michele Pacillo	Competition Authority (AGCM)	Italy
Alejandro Pedraza, Paulina Valladares, Sada Correa Heidi	Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE)	Mexico
Ivonne García González, Jimena Sierra	Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT)	Mexico
Manuel Andre Calampa Villaorduña, Alicia Vilca, Diego Enrique Mendez Vasquez	National Institute for the Defense of Free Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property (INDECOPI)	Peru
Cherryl Carbonell, Marie Camille Castillo	Department of Trade and Industry	Philippines
Enika Pitso	Competition Commission	South Africa
Damla Yeseren Arafa	Ministry of Trade	Turkey
Hugh Stevenson, Russell Damtoft, Michael Panzera	Federal Trade Commission	United States
Caldwell Harrop	Department of Justice	United States
Sita Zimpel	GIZ	
Laura Best	Nelson Mandela University	
Davit Basiashvili		
Farida Mammadova		
Luciana Oliveira Sá Pires		
Piseth Phath		
Tomáš Horák		
Vinicius Matheus Elias Moreira		

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