



Twelfth Meeting of the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform

Wednesday, 7 July 2021

10:00 - 13:00 CEST

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

UNCTAD has recently revamped its Research Partnership Platform (RPP) website and seeks to reinforce its collaboration with its research partners. In this year's RPP meeting, we will launch the UNCTAD RPP publication on Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for Inclusive Development in the Digital Era. This RPP publication is prepared in cooperation with the Center for Competition Law and Compliance at ZHAW - Zurich School of Management and Law, which is one of our close partners. In this session, we will hear different perspectives to various issues raised by the digital economy players in the policy areas related to competition, consumer protection and data protection.

In the second session, we will discuss increasing inequality and competition law and policy. The COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered a global economic crisis, increased the existing inequalities, both in developed and developing countries. There is a debate on to what extent, or if at all, competition law should be concerned with distributive issues. Speakers will address the relevance and role of competition law and policy in addressing economic inequality.

In the last session, participants will have an opportunity to discuss what the emerging issues in the post-Covid-19 period are and what role competition and consumer policies and authorities can play in addressing these issues. This debate may contribute to determining the priority areas for future research work within the RPP.

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Agenda

10:00 - 10:10 **Opening remarks** by Ms. Teresa Moreira, Head, Competition and Consumer Policies Branch, UNCTAD

10:10 - 11:10 **RPP Book Launch: Competition and Consumer Protection Policies for Inclusive Development in the Digital Era**

Moderator: Ms. Ebru Gökçe, RPP Coordinator, UNCTAD

- Prof. Patrick L. Krauskopf, Professor for Competition Law and Head of the Center for Competition Law and Compliance at ZHAW - Zurich School of Management and Law, Switzerland
- Dr. Christine Riefa, Reader, Brunel University, United Kingdom
- Prof. Max Huffman, Indiana University-McKinney School of Law, United States
- Ms. Thembaletu Buthelezi, Principal Economist, Competition Commission of South Africa
- Prof. Diogo R. Coutinho, Law Professor, University of São Paulo, Brazil, and Ms. Beatriz Kira, Researcher, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

11:10 – 12:00 **Panel: Competition law and policy and inequality**

Moderator: Ms. Ebru Gökçe, UNCTAD

- Prof. Firoz Cachalia, Mandela Institute, Wits University Law School
- Prof. Sean Ennis, Director, Centre for Competition Policy, University of East Anglia
- Dr. Kati Cseres, Associate Professor, Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance, University of Amsterdam

The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive discussion among participants and panellists.

12:00 - 13:00 **Open debate: Competition and consumer protection policies in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic**

This session is an opportunity to discuss emerging issues in the post-Covid-19 period and the role of competition and consumer policies and authorities to address. Participants are encouraged to propose issues to be addressed by UNCTAD in its future work.