



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

Review of Capacity-building in and Technical Assistance on Competition Law and Policy

Friday, 7 July 2023 (12:00 - 13:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor) and online

UNCTAD provides capacity-building in and technical assistance on competition law and policy to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with requests received and available resources. These activities include national and regional projects related to drafting and/or revising Competition laws and implementing guidelines, as well as strengthening institutional capacities and advocacy for the creation of a competition culture.

UNCTAD secretariat note¹ provides progress on the capacity-building and technical assistance activities in competition law and policy carried out in 2022 and 2023. Technical assistance is an important pillar of the work of UNCTAD in the field of competition and consumer policies and contributes to significant results achieved to date. The increasing number of formal requests for technical assistance and capacity building from developing countries received by UNCTAD underline the expertise and the relevance of technical cooperation services delivered by UNCTAD. The focus and flexibility undertaken by UNCTAD under this pillar of work throughout the last three years has allowed it to respond fully and quickly to member States' requests, and to address their needs and their challenges in the best possible manner.

In the past three years, UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities aimed to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through competition and consumer policies, and to identify the role of both policies in times of crisis considering the ongoing cost-of-living crises as well.

In this session, the delegates may wish to: (a) exchange views and findings from their past experiences in UNCTAD's technical assistance activities; and (b) discuss what kind of technical assistance activities by UNCTAD are needed now and as next steps.

¹ TD/B/C.I/CPL/71.

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WORK PROGRAMME

12:00 - 12:10 **Presentation by the UNCTAD Secretariat**

12:10 - 12:50 **Speakers**

- Ms. Maria Elena Vasquez Tavaras, President, The National Commission for the Defense of Competition - Pro-Competencia, Dominican Republic
- Mr. Mohamed Abouelaziz, Secretary-General, Competition Council, Morocco
- Mr. Blaise Mbenga Aundu, Analyst, National Competition Commission - CONAC, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
- Ms. Maria Mercedes Pedraz, Judge, Audiencia Nacional, Court of Appeal, Madrid, Spain

12:50 - 13:00 **Interactive debate**

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Ms. Valentina Rivas (valentina.rivas@un.org).