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NOTIFICATION

Eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

Geneva, 19-23 October 2020

The eighth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices will be held from 19 to 23 October 2020 in room XVII of the Palais de Nations in Geneva, and will commence at 3 p.m. on Monday, 19 October. The Conference will mark the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Set.

Background and purpose of the meeting

The Conference will provide an opportunity for ministers, heads of competition authorities and consumer protection agencies and senior officials of member States of UNCTAD to discuss competition and consumer protection issues at the national and international levels, in light of the expansion of global markets, the increasing role of transnational companies, the information and communications technology revolution and the emergence of electronic commerce (Nairobi Maafikiano, paragraphs 69 and 76 (x)). In this regard, the Conference will assess experience gained to date in the implementation of the Set and of the revised United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection and will make recommendations for possible areas of improvement and effective implementation.

Nomination and participation

This meeting is open to all member States of UNCTAD. Member States are requested to submit the credentials of their representatives and advisers to the UNCTAD secretariat by 02 October 2020. Other organizations, including specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations in the general and special categories, as well as academia, research institutions and the private sector, may participate as observers, and are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by the same date.

Online registration, for attendance and inclusion in the list of participants, is mandatory and should be completed through the following link: [Eighth United Nations Conference](#). Early registration is advisable so that timely approval may be given for the issuance of a badge required for access to the Palais des Nations. Registration requires uploading an official letter of nomination to represent an organization at this meeting. For government representatives, a note verbale or an email from the permanent mission in Geneva will suffice. Further inquiries regarding registration should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; email: meetings@unctad.org and jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org

Background documents and contributed papers

The [Conference website](#) will provide relevant information on the substantive discussions, documentation and logistical aspects. The provisional agenda for the meeting, together with the secretariat's annotations thereto, will be circulated as document TD/RBP/CONF.9/1. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, at its eighteenth session, acted as the preparatory body for the Conference. In line with the agreed conclusions adopted by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, as contained in document TD/B/C.I/CLP/55, the Conference will hold high-level consultations on the following issues:

- a) Implementation of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection and the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices
- b) Strengthening consumer protection and competition in the digital economy
- c) International enforcement cooperation among consumer protection authorities in electronic commerce
- d) International cooperation under section F of the Set: Adoption of the guiding policies and procedures
- e) Improving consumer product safety worldwide: Good data for good policy
- f) Competitive neutrality
- g) Combating cross-border cartels
- h) Review of capacity-building in and technical assistance on consumer protection and competition law and policy
- i) Voluntary peer review of consumer protection law and policy: Peru
- j) Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy: West African Economic and Monetary Union

In accordance with past practice, the Conference is expected to provide guidance to UNCTAD on its future work programme in this area, including technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries, the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition.

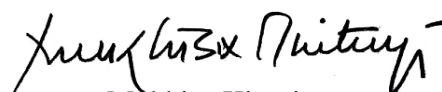
In order to facilitate deliberations and the informal exchange of experiences and best practices on the issues to be discussed, member States and observers are requested to submit written contributions. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers should be submitted by **18 September 2020** to the contacts provided below.

Logistics

Before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in Building E of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations; therefore, visitors will be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the Security Service grants special clearance.

Further information and contact details

All enquiries concerning substantive issues should be addressed to the coordinators in the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch; emails: teresa.moreira@unctad.org, and jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org.



Mukhisa Kituyi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

8 July 2020