CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE COMMERCE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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

19 -23 October 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

High Level Segment "Leaving no one behind in the post COVID-19 world: The contribution of competition and consumer policies"

Monday, 19 October (15:30 to 16:30 CEST) Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor) Interprefy Virtual Platform for Remote Participation

Economies and consumers in both developed and developing countries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 health crisis. Lockdown measures have affected many sectors and transformed the crisis into an economic one. Financial stimulus packages have been put in place in many countries, especially developed countries, and emerging economies. Consumers, vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers in particular, have been exposed to misleading and unfair practices, particularly in online markets as more and more consumers started to shop online.

Competition and consumer protection authorities throughout the world have responded to anti-competitive and unfair practices during the COVID-19 crisis by taking appropriate measures and effective law enforcement. The COVID-19 crisis revealed the crucial role played by competition and consumer policies in protecting competition and consumers at times of economic crisis. This session will discuss the role of competition and consumer protection for an inclusive economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 period.

WORK PROGRAMME

15:30 Keynote speech: Prof. Frederic Jenny, ESSEC Paris Business School, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee

15:45- 16:30 Panel: Leaving no one behind in the post COVID-19 world: The contribution of competition and consumer policies

Speakers:

- H.E. Ms. Victoria Hernández Mora, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Costa Rica
- H. E. Ms. Peggy Serame, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Botswana
- H.E. Mr. Bakhyt Sultanov, Minister of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan
- H.E. Mr. Christian Kastrop, Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Germany
- H.E. Mr. João Torres, Secretary of State for Trade, Services and Consumer Protection, Ministry for the Economy and Digital Transition, Portugal

For more information on this session, please contact Ms. Ebru Gökçe Dessemond (<u>ebru.gokce@unctad.org</u>) and Mrs. Elizabeth Gachuiri (<u>elizabeth.gachuiri@unctad.org</u>).