



**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

**Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and
Policy: West African Economic and Monetary Union**

**Tuesday, 20 October, 10h-12h
Room XIX (Third Floor)
Palais des Nations**

During the Fifth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Multilaterally Agreed Set of Fair Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, held in November 2005 in Turkey, Benin, in coordination with the other member states and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Commission had asked UNCTAD to submit the Union's competition policy to its voluntary peer review mechanism.

WAEMU is the first regional organization of developing countries to have submitted to this exercise which took place during the meeting of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, July 2007.

The peer review of the community competition rules, and the institutional framework had led to a set of recommendations, the implementation of which required the signing of a technical assistance agreement between UNCTAD and WAEMU.

More than ten years later, an *ex post* evaluation is necessary for a new examination to take stock of the Union's progress in the application of competition policy and law, taking into account new data such as the establishment of a Community framework on competition within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the prospect of the adoption of rules at continental level, to support the African Free Trade Area.

The findings and policy recommendations of the peer review will be used to design tailor-made technical assistance activities to reinforce the effectiveness of competition law enforcement in the WAEMU region. Development agencies, technical assistance providers, bilateral donors and international organizations are invited to support the respective technical assistance activities.

¹ Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: UEMOA/WAEMU (UNCTAD/TD/B/C.1/CLP).

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Tuesday, 20 October - 10h-12h
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10h-10h05 - Introduction by the UNCTAD Secretariat

10h05-10h25 - Presentation of the Peer Review report by Prof. Frederic Jenny, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee and Professor, ESSEC Paris Business School and Mr. Amadou Dieng, International consultant and former Director of Competition at the WAEMU Commission

10h25-10h40 - Statement by the Head of the WAEMU Delegation

- Mr. Joãozinho Mendes, Commissioner in charge of international cooperation, WAEMU
- Mr. Olivier Angaman, Director of Competition, WAEMU

10h40-11h20 - Peer Reviewers:

- Mr. Ridha Ben Mahmoud, Chairman, Competition Council, Tunisia
- Mr. Georges Lipimile, Director of Competition, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA
- Prof. Patrick Krauskopf, ZHAW School of Law and Management, former Deputy Director of the Swiss Competition Commission

11h20-11h45 - Interactive Session: This session will allow the WAEMU Commission to seek advice from other Competition Authorities on issues identified in the peer review report

11h45-11h55 - Presentation by UNCTAD of technical cooperation and capacity building activities

11h55-12h - Closing