



**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**

19 - 23 October 2020

Geneva, Switzerland

**Review of Capacity building in and Technical Assistance on Consumer Protection
and Competition Laws and Policies**

Wednesday 21 October

15.00 h – 16.30 h

Room XIX (Third floor), Palais des Nations

UNCTAD provides capacity-building and technical assistance on competition and consumer protection laws and policies to developing and least developed countries, as well as to countries with economies in transition in accordance with requests received, the needs of the countries concerned and available resources. This includes both legal and economic assistance in drafting national and regional competition and consumer protection legal frameworks policy guidelines, as well as capacity-building in the implementation of both policies with a long-term perspective in line with the United Nations Set on Competition and the revised United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection and the requests made by the Seventh United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set and following sessions of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts meetings in Competition and Consumer Protection (IGEs).

The report prepared by UNCTAD¹ consolidates the annual reviews of the capacity-building and technical cooperation activities implemented by the UNCTAD secretariat since 2015 that were presented between 2016 and 2019. In addition, the report provides an assessment of the impact of UNCTAD intervention in the areas of competition and consumer protection policies in the last five years period.

The debate seeks to highlight the achievements reached over the last five years in many countries and regions of the world in the development of competition and consumer protection policies. Also, taking into account of the Covid-19 crisis during this year, it is important to hear delegates' views on the effects of the crisis on their economies and its impact on these policies to discuss and understand which are the new priorities. This will enable UNCTAD to establish an appropriate and effective technical cooperation working strategy to address the challenges generated by this unprecedented economic crisis.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the challenges related to the digitization of the economy and the transition of the climate change that will be key to the economic development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the next years.

¹ TD/RBP/CONF.9/6.

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WORK PROGRAMME

15h - 15h05 - Presentation by the UNCTAD Secretariat

15h05 - 16h - Speakers

- Mr. Gustavo Benitez, Director of Investigation, Competition Commission of Paraguay (CONACOM)
- Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
- Ms. Tania Zuñiga. Professor, *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Peru* (PUCP)
- Dr. Lijin Yan, Chairman of China Silk Road Group CO. LTD

16h - 16h30 - Questions from the floor

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Juan Luis Crucelegui (juanluis.crucelegui@un.org) or Ms. Akari Yamamoto (akari.yamamoto@un.org).