



**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

**International Cooperation and the Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F
of the UN Set on Competition and its relevance in times of COVID-19 crisis**

**Thursday 22 October (16:30 - 18:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor)**

Since the Seventh Review Conference held in 2015, member States and the UNCTAD secretariat have been focused in addressing the challenges faced by developing countries when dealing with international cooperation on competition law enforcement. The result of all these efforts have yielded positive results and tangible outcomes.

Importance of international cooperation is underlined in Section F of the UN Set, on international measures; it states that collaboration at the international level should aim to eliminate or effectively deal with anticompetitive practices through strengthening and improving controls over such practices adversely affecting international trade and economic development, in particular in developing countries.

In 2019, member States agreed on a text entitled “Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set” (GPP), which provides guidelines that can be of assistance to competition authorities when dealing with cross-border anticompetitive practices, because they can facilitate the dialogue and foster understanding of each other’s competition laws.

International cooperation remains important for member States in the time of the COVID-19 crisis. The unprecedented negative impact it generated calls for enhanced cooperation at the international level to prevent and tackle effectively the challenges brought by the crisis in an efficient and collaborative manner as outlined by the Secretary General of UNCTAD. Nevertheless, the current crisis does pave the way for improved and stronger cooperation at regional and international levels among the member States which have shared best practices to respond to challenges coming out of this crisis. The crisis has further demonstrated how useful regional cooperation is, and how international cooperation is much needed to deal with issues of common concern across the world.

The session’s objective is to briefly present the GPP and submit them for approval to the Eighth Review Conference, among others, to consider what could be the role of UNCTAD and its member States in the successful implementation of the GPP beyond 2020. Discussions will also touch upon the role and impact of GPP in times of crisis through the experiences of member States.

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WORK PROGRAMME

16h30 - 16h35 Presentation of the UNCTAD Secretariat Background Note

16h35 - 17h25 Panel Discussion

Speakers:

1. Mr. Andrey Tsyganov, Deputy Head, Federal Antimonopoly Service, Russian Federation
2. Mr. Amadou Ceesay, Executive Secretary, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Gambia
3. Mr. Noah Phillips, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission, United States
4. Mr. Rod Sims, Chairman, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

17h25 - 17h55 General Discussion

17h55 - 18h00 Closing

Delegates who would like to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat by contacting Dr. Pierre Horna (Pierre.Horna@un.org) and/or Ms. Akari Yamamoto (Akari.Yamamoto@un.org).