Technical Assistance Project Proposal for follow up to the Recommendations of the Pakistan Voluntary Peer Review

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
Thirteenth session
Geneva, 8 July 2013

Presentation by UNCTAD Secretariat

Duration: 3 years

Starting Date: 2014

Sector: Competition law and policy

 Project Objective: To assist the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to enhance its enforcement capacity and to develop a competition culture.

The project proposal is prepared on the basis of the recommendations of Pakistan Peer Review in consultation with CCP.

The overall goal is to create a well-functioning economic environment conducive to enterprise development, increased investment and improved consumer welfare.

Project Objectives

- •To improve the competition legislation of Pakistan by reviewing the current law and reinforcing it with additional regulations and guidelines;
- •To strengthen the CCP's enforcement capacities in case handling, investigation and legal procedures, and merger control, with a view to improving the quality of its decisions;

Project Objectives (cont'd)

- •To raise awareness on the benefits of competition law and policy amongst all the stakeholders, including government institutions, the judiciary, the business community and consumers, thereby promoting voluntary compliance with the competition law and raising the profile of CCP;
- •To endow CCP with the necessary tools and mechanisms to enhance its coordination and cooperation with sector regulators or other agencies whose decisions and policies may have implications for competition in the markets, with a view to increasing efficiency and competition in infrastructure industries.

Outcome

• Enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in competition law enforcement by the CCP and improved business environment conducive to inclusive development in Pakistan.

Project Strategy

- To use some of the practices, which have worked well in Pakistan, such as working groups
- To carry out the Project activities in an inclusive manner by involving all the stakeholders
- To assist building local capacity to improve the competition regime in Pakistan in the long run

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Outcome Indicators

- (i) Number of competition cases handled successfully by the CCP per year
- (ii) Increased level of awareness of competition law amongst stakeholders, possibly measured by surveys
- (iii) Increased role of competition policy in traditionally state controlled or regulated sectors and in economic policy making, measured by the review of new laws and policies with respect to consideration of competition issues

Project Activities

- 1. Legal Framework
- Review of the current competition law and drafting implementation guidelines and regulations.
- 2. Capacity-building
- Training on competition law and policy for CCP Board members.
- Training on investigative procedures, case handling and merger review for case handlers.
- Training for the judiciary on competition law enforcement.
- Developing competition law and economics courses in the major universities in Pakistan.
- Preparing studies in markets where there are competition concerns.

Project Activities(cont'd)

- 3. Competition Advocacy
- Establishing mechanisms to promote mutual understanding and to improve cooperation between CCP on the one hand, and other Government institutions, such the sector regulators, the business community, judiciary and academia, on the other hand.
- Conducting advocacy seminars on the role of competition law and its benefits for the economy and consumers for government officials, consumer associations, the business community, academics, lawyers and the judiciary.
- Developing the CCP website to ensure efficient communication with stakeholders and competition advocacy through the use of media.

Institutional and Implementation Arrangement

- Executing Agency: UNCTAD
 UNCTAD shall retain overall responsibility for the execution of the project in consultation with CCP. All services shall be provided in accordance with United Nations procedures, rules and regulations.
- <u>National Project Coordinator: CCP</u>
 CCP will provide policy guidelines and extend logistical support and assistance to UNCTAD during the implementation of the project.
- Project Management Committee will be composed of representatives from UNCTAD and CCP. The Committee will prepare and adopt a yearly work plan including specific activities. It will carry out a mid-term review every six months and hold an annual meeting with the participation of the donors to monitor the implementation and the progress achieved as well as to revise the priorities, if needs be.

