



TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

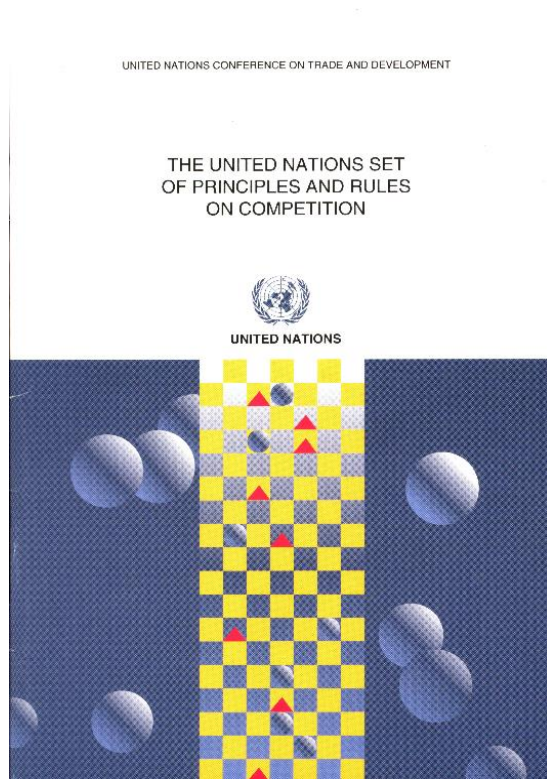
- Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition law and policy and on Consumer protection law and policy-**

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13 November 2018

UNCTAD's mandates on Competition and on Consumer protection



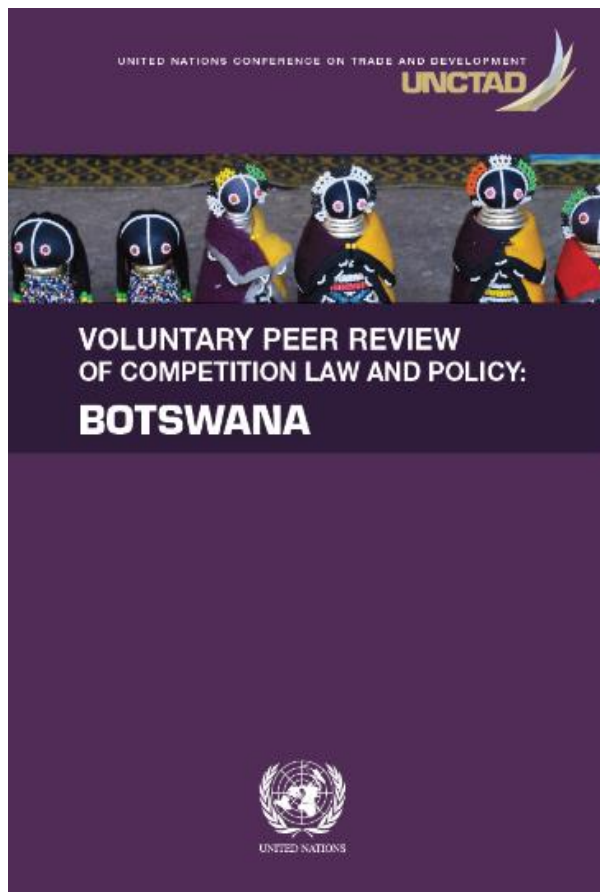
- ✓ Two unique sets of recommendations for member States' Governments, civil society organizations, business.
- ✓ Focal point for Competition and Consumer Policies within the UN system.



- **Substantive sessions:**

- **Keynote speech by Prof. Eleanor Fox on “The contribution of Competition policy to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”:** making markets work for the people;
- **UNCTAD Secretariat Report on capacity building in the field of Competition law and policy;**
- **Round table on “Competition issues in the sale of audiovisual rights for major sports events”;**
- **Round table on the “Challenges faced by developing countries in Competition and regulation in the maritime transport sector”.**





• **Botswana Voluntary Peer Review**
Session: the reviewers were representatives of Competition Authorities of Kenya, South Africa and an US academic.

• UNCTAD proposed a technical assistance project to implement the Peer Review recommendations as a follow-up.

- Report of the **UNCTAD Discussion Group on International Cooperation**;
- **UNCTAD Model Law on Competition** - Revision of Chapters V and VI;
- **Virtual repository of International Best Practices** - cooperation with Peru -



- 385 registered participants;
- 3 Ministers: Botswana, Belarus and Eurasian Economic Commission;
- **Wide participation and interest from Member States and relevant stakeholders** (civil society organizations - International Olympic Committee, UEFA, CUTS; academia - European University Institute, Centre for Business Law and Practice, University of Leeds, Melbourne University; business associations - International Chamber of Commerce).
- **Delivering research and analysis - 4 major publications presented:**
 - A review of Competition Policy in Ethiopia;
 - Voluntary Peer Review on Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Botswana;
 - COMPAL project - [Impact of competition on markets \(in Spanish\)](#); - [Assessment of cooperation on consumer protection and competition in Latin America \(in Spanish\)](#)



Agreed conclusions include:

- **Renewal of the mandate for the Working Group on International Cooperation** under Section F of the UN Set of Principles and Rules on Competition - high interest and active participation of member States;
- **Secretariat's study - Competition issues in the digital economy - for 2019;**
- Two other issues for discussion in 2019:
 - **Competition issues in the health sector**, specifically looking into pharmaceuticals and healthcare services;
 - **International cooperation between Competition Authorities** against cross-border anticompetitive practices and mergers.

Requests for technical cooperation and capacity building from:

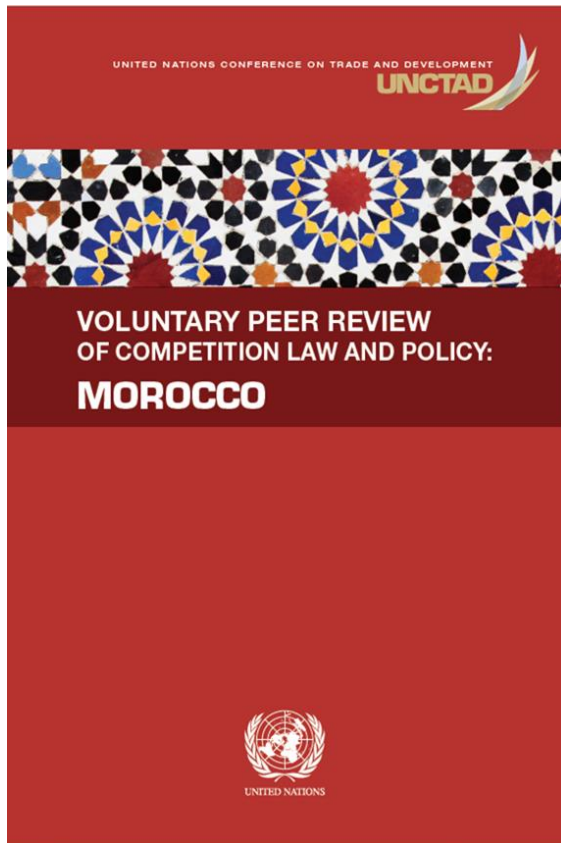
- Belarus to undertake a legal review of its new Competition law adopted in 2018;
- Eurasian Competition Commission to undertake a legal review of its regional Competition provisions.





- **Substantive sessions:**
 - **Keynote speech by Dr. Sothi Rachagan on "The contribution of Consumer protection to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals":** access to justice through alternative consumer dispute resolution mechanisms and consumer redress;
 - Round table on **"Consumer protection in financial services"**;
 - UNCTAD Secretariat **Report on Capacity Building on Consumer Protection law and policy**;
 - Round table on **"Dispute Resolution and redress"**;
 - Round table on **"Consumer Product Safety"**.





First Voluntary Peer Review of Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Morocco

- The reviewers were representatives of Consumer Protection Agencies of Belgium, Lebanon and Portugal.
- This Voluntary Peer Review was facilitated by UNCTAD under the **UNCTAD MENA Technical Cooperation programme**, funded by Sweden.
- UNCTAD proposed to Morocco technical assistance to implement the Peer Review recommendations as a follow-up.



- Other UNCTAD Secretariat presentations:

- **Reports of the Working Groups on E-commerce and on the Protection of Vulnerable and Disadvantaged consumers;**
- **World Consumer Protection Map;**
- **Virtual repository of International Best Practices** (also on Competition) - developed between UNCTAD and Peru (INDECOPI)





- 360 registered participants: 88 member States; 10 international organizations, 4 NGOs, 22 academia, 8 private sector;
 - 4 Ministers: Brazil, Germany, India, Morocco;
 - **Gender balance:** 58% of speakers and officers were women and 42% men. As for participants registered, 61% men and 39% women.
- **Wide participation and interest from Member States and relevant stakeholders** (civil society organizations - Consumers International, CUTS, MGP India, academia - International Law Association scholars, business associations - International Chamber of Commerce).
- **Delivering research, analysis and tools - 6 major publications presented :**
 - [Manual on Consumer Protection](#) (final);
 - Voluntary Peer Review on Consumer Protection Law and Policy of Morocco;
 - [Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Consumer Protection](#);
 - MENA programme - Guidelines on Consumer Protection: Agency structure and on Consumer Protection; Business engagement;
 - COMPAL project - [Assessment of cooperation on consumer protection and competition in Latin America \(in Spanish\)](#).





Agreed conclusions (TD/B/C.I/CPLP/15) include:

- ✓ **Renewal of the mandate for Working Group on Consumer protection in E-commerce** to provide policy recommendation for developing countries.
- ✓ Establishment of **Working Group on Consumer Product Safety** to highlight best practices, to facilitate information exchange and consultations, and to continue the work from the third session.
- ✓ **Issue for discussion in 2019: Consumer protection for sustainability.**
- ✓ Request for an update of the implementation of the actionable agreed conclusions of IGE 2018 (India).
- ✓ Invitation for further consultations regarding the proposed draft resolution on World Consumer Protection Week.

High expectation for **follow-up events**:

- Organization of American States and OECD showed interest in working with UNCTAD on Consumer Product safety.
- Dissemination of Morocco Peer Review's recommendations in November.
- Three volunteers for future Peer review: Indonesia, Peru and WAEMU.



- **Report on the IGE on Competition law and policy**

(TD/B/C.I/CLP/52, 5 September 2018)

- **Report on the IGE on Consumer protection law and policy**

(TD/B/C.I/CPLP/15, 26 July 2018)



THANK YOU !

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<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/CompetitionLaw/Competition-Law-and-Policy.aspx>



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