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)](https://example.com);
  - [Assessment of cooperation on consumer protection and competition in Latin America (in Spanish)](https://example.com)
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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