

**Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on  
Competition Law and Policy,  
21-22 July 2022**

**Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Rethinking Competition Law Enforcement:  
Lessons Learnt from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Presentation*

*UNCTAD*





INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
**Competition law and policy**

# **Rethinking competition law enforcement: Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Thursday 21 July 2022  
10. a.m.- 01. p.m., Room XVII**





# Challenges faced by competition authorities

- ✓ Operational challenges (e.g., suspended hearings and filings, difficulties in collecting and accessing information)
- ✓ Challenges related to mergers (e.g., increased numbers of merger notifications)
- ✓ Challenges related to anti-competitive practices (e.g., price gouging, increase of complaints in the e-commerce and digital area)
- ✓ Challenges related to market intervention (e.g., state aid, government support measures)



# Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

- ✓ In times of crisis, sound competition policy is even more important for rapid and sustainable economic recovery
- ✓ Competition authorities should continue to work together with Governments to advise on the design of economic recovery measures, through competition advocacy
- ✓ Access to digital markets by micro small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) should be facilitated under conditions that guarantee transparency and fairness



# Questions for discussion and future work

- ✓ What is the role of competition law enforcement cooperation in times of crisis?
- ✓ Which enforcement and advocacy activities are most critical in order to maintain competitive markets and protect consumer welfare during a crisis?
- ✓ What measures should competition authorities adopt to prepare for future crises?
- ✓ What are some policy options to best ensure access to digital markets by MSMEs post-pandemic period?



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# Thank you

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