



INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON

# COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY

5–7 July 2023, Geneva



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



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

# Interaction between Competition and Industrial Policies

Thursday 6 July 2023  
10:00-12:00, Room XIX





# 1. Introduction

- **Competition and industrial policies**
  - Both policies aim to achieve the same goal of economic growth and development, but their interaction may be complementary or in conflict with each other
  - “The relationship between competition and industrial policies in promoting economic development” (TD/B/C.I/CLP/3) – IGE on Competition Law and Policy in 2009
- **Synergies and tensions**
  - Interaction frameworks - advisory role; cooperation
- **(Re)emerging debates on the interaction of the two policies**
  - New policy demands emerge reflecting changes in the economy; digitalization, sustainable development and the global economic downturn



## 2. Growing needs for cooperation

- **Digitalization**

- New regulations/competition law amendments to better capture competition concerns in digital economy, developed by the joint efforts of competition and industrial authorities (e.g., EU, Japan, Germany)

- **Sustainability**

- Guidelines or legislative actions to clarify the consideration of sustainability in competition law and policy (e.g., EU, Japan, Austria, the Netherlands, China)

- **COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis**

- Governments' subsidies and state aids to overcome the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis with advice from competition authorities (e.g., Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, Austria, Brazil)



## 3. Conclusions

- Efforts of competition advocacy before and after the introduction of industrial policy measures
  - Strengthened cooperation with other government authorities; more systematic mechanisms of cooperation?
- Capacity enhancement of competition authorities
  - Prompt and effective response to global economic changes
  - Consistency and reliability of competition policy



## 4. Questions for discussion

- What is the role that competition authorities can play for Governments to better deal with recent economic changes, such as digitalization, sustainable development and the cost-of-living crisis?
- What are the challenges that competition authorities, particularly recently established ones, face in applying competition policies on industrial policies? What are the solutions to these challenges?
- How can the interaction frameworks and mechanisms between competition authorities and industrial policymakers be improved?



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# Thank you

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