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Competition Law and Policy
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Review of Capacity-building in and
Technical Assistance on Competition
Law and Policy

Advancing Competition Law and Policy in the Arab Region

Presentation

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Advancing Competition Law and Policy in the Arab Region

Ms. Nathalie Khaled
Economic Affairs Officer, Coordinator of Competition and Consumer Protection Project, UNESCWA
First Arab Competition Forum

Objectives:

• Regional coordination, national capacity development,
• and research encouragement

Diverse Discussion Topics:

• Competition & Economic Development,
• Effective Competition Frameworks,
• Intersection of Competition, Employment & Gender,
• Competition, Anti-Corruption & Good Governance,
• Competition and Public Procurement
Second Arab Competition Forum

Objectives:
• Sustaining momentum from the first Forum, Establishing a regional multi-stakeholder platform
• Session Highlights:
  • Partner organizations’ updates post-Forum 1
  • Global best practices for competition during COVID-19
  • Updates from Arab competition authorities on national developments

Best practices from Albania, the USA, South Africa, Turkey, Mexico, Brazil, Canada

Outcome: New insights, best practices, strategic recommendations, and visions for future forums
Third Arab Competition Forum

Objectives:
• Economic growth
• Cooperation
• Informed policymaking

Key Topics:
• Competition policies
• National developments
• New projects

Special Event: Student challenge on digital market competition
Fourth Arab Competition Forum

Objective:
- Economic growth,
- Collaboration
- Policy guidance
- Future recommendations

Focus:
- Mergers, acquisitions, competition authority effectiveness, digital market dominance, market studies
- Student Challenge: Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions on Competition
This study constitutes an assessment system of the region's current regulatory climate for business as it considers legislation related to competition, anti-corruption, foreign direct investment, consumer protection, and corporate law.
Progress of Competition Regimes in the Arab Region: A Comparative Study (2020 - 2022)

- Arab Region: 3.99, 4.43, 5.19
- GCC: 3.49, 5.19, 4.43
- LDCs: 2.57, 2.57
- CACs: 3.36, 3.23
- MICs: 4.84, 3.71

Progress levels:
- Very Strong: 5.01
- Strong: 4.01
- Developed: 3.01
- Moderate: 2.01
- Basic: 1.01
- Weak: 0.01
- Very Weak: 0.01
## Progress in Competition Law Reforms across Arab Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Competition Legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Amended Competition Law 175/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Competition Law 72/2020; Implementing Regulations 14/2021; Resolution 25/2022</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Competition Law 281/2022</td>
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<td>Oman</td>
<td>Ministerial Decision 18/2021</td>
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<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Ministerial Decree 513/2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Executive Regulation for Prevention of Monopoly and Unfair Commercial Practices (unavailable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Implementing Regulation for Competition Law (2020); Mergers and Collusion Guidelines (2021-2022); Arabic Dictionary of Competition (2022).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Introduced amendments the competition law in 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Decision No. 632/2021 established the Competition Council. Decision No. 539/2021, the Ministry of Economy and Trade adopted the internal regulations of the Competition Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>New Competition law in 2023</td>
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# Competition Authorities in the Arab Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Competition Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Competition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Competition Directorate within Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Competition Directorate within the Ministry of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Egyptian Competition Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Competition Directorate - Ministry of Industry and Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Competition Protection Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Competition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Competition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Centre for Competition Protection and Monopoly Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Committee for the Protection of Competition and Prevention of Monopolistic Practices – Ministry of Economy and Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>General Authority for Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Competition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Competition Department - Ministry of Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Public Administration to Promote Competition and Prevent Monopoly and Commercial Fraud – Ministry of Industry and Trade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

• Harmonization of competition laws and regulations across member states.
• Provision of assistance and technical support to least-developed countries
• Establishment of cooperation agreements between member states.
• Development of programs to educate the youth on competition law and policy.

• Apply regulatory reforms such as strengthening sanction regimes and further monitoring and enforcing mechanisms in legislations.
• Reinforcing competitive neutrality including elimination of monopolies accorded to SOEs in some specific sectors.
ESCWA's Role in Enhancing Competition in the Arab Region

- Introduction of youth competition challenges during the 3rd and 4th Arab Competition Forums.
- Advocacy through academia collaboration and networking.
- Networks and Platforms for Knowledge Exchange and Peer learning to promote cooperation and mutual support
  - Launch of WhatsApp and LinkedIn groups for networking among competition experts.
- Capacity Building and training to competition authorities, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders.
  - Agreement with OECD and GVH competition authority on short competition videos in Arabic language
  - Online self-paced course on Fighting bid rigging in Public Procurement
ESCWA’s upcoming Initiatives to Boost Competition Policy in the Arab Region

- Regulatory Assessment and Research on competition-related topics.
  - **Arab Business Legislative Framework report**: To highlight weaknesses in Arab competition legislation.
  - **Arab Legislative portal**: A repository of 500+ laws related to the business environment in the Arab countries.
  - Paper and reports: [Competition in Lebanon](#), [Trade and competition in the Arab region](#)

- Regional and National Workshops: Promoting a culture of competition and building capacities of Arab competition authorities.

- Fifth Arab Competition Forum: To be held in Tunisia in 2024.
Thank You