

Intergovernmental
Group of Experts on
Competition Law and Policy

23rd session

8–10 July 2026 – Palais des Nations – Geneva

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Competition Law and Policy
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Report of the informal Working Group on Cross- Border Cartels

Thursday, 9 July 2026
17:30-18:00, Room XII

➤ **Background and Discussions in the informal WG on CBCs**

- The 9th UN Review Conference (July 2025)
 - * Renewed the mandate of the informal Working Group on Cross-Border Cartels
- 28 November 2025 – Kick-off meeting
- 06 February 2026 – Cases by Mauritius, South Korea, Brazil and South Africa
- 13 April 2026 – UNCTAD GPP and Cases by Egypt and United Kingdom
 - * UNCTAD presented the ways in which GPP could be useful in cross-border cartel cases

➤ Lessons Learnt

- **Informal cooperation as a foundation:** Informal communication channels and “gateways” for non-confidential information exchange are essential for building trust and enabling effective cross-border investigations.
- **Targeted and flexible enforcement tactics:** Focusing on key decision-makers and using pragmatic tools (e.g., warning letters) can help overcome procedural delays and unlock progress in cartel investigations.
- **Shift to proactive enforcement:** The integration of inter-agency big data and AI-driven analytical tools signals a transition from reactive to preventive approaches, enabling real-time detection of collusive behaviour.
- **Value of standardized cooperation frameworks:** Instruments like UNCTAD’s GPP enhance coordination by standardizing procedures and aligning operational tactics (e.g., synchronized dawn raids), thereby increasing the effectiveness of sanctions against global cartels.

➤ Recommendations

- Continuing discussions on practical case studies provided by member States, covering cross-border cartels, bid-rigging, international cooperation, and emerging issues such as algorithmic collusion.
- Promoting and raising awareness of the UNCTAD Guiding Policies and Procedures under Section F of the UN Set on Competition (GPP).
- Promoting international cooperation to deal with cross-border cartels and bid-rigging effectively by strengthening both formal and informal cooperation among competition authorities.

Based on suggestions from member States, the WG meeting format will include webinars featuring external experts alongside case presentations by competition authorities.

Thank you

