

Intergovernmental
Group of Experts on
Competition Law and Policy

23rd session

8–10 July 2026 – Palais des Nations – Geneva

**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on
Competition Law and Policy**
23rd session

**Review of capacity-building in and
technical assistance on competition
law and policy**

Thursday, 9 July 2026
15:00 - 17:00, Room XII

➤ National activities in 2025-2026

- “Fostering competition law and policy and competition culture in Albania” – funded by European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
 - Training for judges and magistrates
 - Trainings for competition and consumer protection authorities
 - Manuals on competition compliance for business associations, the health sector and the telecommunications sector
 - Video on the leniency programme



➤ Regional and international activities in 2025-2026

- “Technical assistance and capacity building in competition and consumer protection for African Portuguese speaking developing countries and Timor-Leste” – funded by the government of Portugal since 2019
- Arab Competition Forum – collaboration with UN-ESCWA and OECD
- Online self-paced course on “interface between SME development and competition policy”



TIME'S UP

The interface between competition policy and MSME development

🕒 20 hours 📅 24 May 2025
🌐 English 📖 Online self-paced

Voluntary peer review of competition law and policy

- “Brief assessment of 20 years of voluntary peer reviews of competition law and policy” in 2025
 - All authorities surveyed agreed that the peer reviews helped improve their competition system
 - Voluntary peer reviews have also helped to promote competition awareness-raising
 - Obstacles in implementing recommendations: limited resources, competing government priorities, need for sustained political will, cross-ministerial coordination
 - Stronger and more sustained follow-up, expanded technical assistance, clearer monitoring of progress and more robust capacity-building support

➤ **Figures and impacts**

- **Timor-Leste:** UNCTAD supported the drafting of the national competition law, which was approved by the parliament in March 2026
- Organized or co-organized **20** public events / participated in over **60** events on competition and consumer protection issues
- **More than 25 formal requests** for technical assistance in competition and consumer protection remain unaddressed (as at February 2026)

Impact assessment

- **UNCTAD recognizes the importance of the measurable and sustained impact of technical cooperation activities conducted in beneficiary countries**
 - Systematic evaluation of the impact
 - Outcomes and longer-term impacts (e.g. changes in institutional capacity, enforcement practices and policy implementation)
- **Possible methodologies: survey for beneficiary countries; systematic follow-up of the implementation of recommendations from voluntary peer reviews**

➤ Questions for discussion

- (a) How can more sustainable and predictable extrabudgetary funding for capacity building and technical assistance activities with regard to competition be mobilized, including through strengthened partnerships, joint resource mobilization and innovative funding approaches?
- (b) What methodologies and approaches could UNCTAD adopt to demonstrate the long term impact of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including through the improved monitoring of outcomes and follow-up assessments that capture sustained institutional and policy-related changes in beneficiary countries?
- (c) Within existing resource constraints, how can UNCTAD further improve the development impact, efficiency and sustainability of technical assistance?
- (d) Given the four clusters of issues reaffirmed by the Ninth United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices and in the light of resource constraints, as well as evolving market and policy challenges, what priority thematic areas in competition should guide the future technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD?

Thank you

