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Competition Law and Policy, 23rd session
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Statement

Kenya

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STATEMENT FOR USE DURING THE 23RD SESSION ON THE IGE ON COMPETITION POLICY ON 8TH JULY 2026 AT ROOM XII PALAIS DES NATIONS.

Ms. Chair,
Acting Secretary General, Mr. Pedro Moreno,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Kenyan delegation wishes to express sincere appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for the excellent preparations for this twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy. We also warmly congratulate you, **Ms Eunice Hamavwa** for taking the role of Chair of the 23rd Session on the IGE on Competition Policy and the Members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of our full support throughout these proceedings.

The **Geneva Consensus adopted in October 2025** acknowledged the importance for competition and consumer protection laws which are essential for promoting open, dynamic, fair and safe markets and play a vital role in advancing sustainable and inclusive development by ensuring consumers' could have access to essential goods and services, protecting them from fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices, and empowering them through consumer education to make informed choices.

Distinguished Delegates,

Competition policy remains a fundamental pillar for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Competitive markets stimulate innovation, enhance consumer welfare, promote private sector development, and strengthen economic resilience. For developing countries, particularly in Africa, effective competition regimes are indispensable in addressing market concentration, preventing anti-competitive conduct, and reducing barriers to market entry that disproportionately affect micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Today, global disruptions affecting major supply routes continue to place pressure on the supply of fuel, fertilizers and other essential commodities, contributing to rising food prices and broader economic uncertainty. These developments highlight the importance of resilient and competitive markets, particularly for developing countries that are highly dependent on imports.

Kenya remains committed to strengthening its competition framework to promote transparent, fair and competitive markets. We recognize that effective enforcement not only protects consumers but also creates an enabling environment for investment, entrepreneurship, industrialization and sustainable economic transformation.

At the same time, digital markets are creating new and increasingly complex challenges. Issues such as cross-border mergers, data-driven business models, market concentration and the



growing influence of large digital platforms require competition authorities to continually adapt their tools and approaches. As the digital economy expands, particularly in developing countries, stronger institutional capacity, greater international cooperation and effective information-sharing will be essential to ensuring that digital markets remain open, fair and competitive.

In this regard, the Kenya delegation commends UNCTAD for its continued technical assistance, capacity-building programmes, voluntary peer reviews and policy guidance, which have significantly strengthened competition authorities across developing countries. We encourage the continued implementation of the Geneva Consensus mandate, particularly support for developing countries through technical cooperation, policy development and the sharing of good practices.

Regional cooperation is equally important. In Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Area presents a valuable opportunity to strengthen cooperation among competition authorities, promote greater regulatory convergence and improve our collective ability to address cross-border anti-competitive practices. Such collaboration will help ensure that the benefits of regional integration are shared more broadly and contribute to sustainable development across the continent.

As markets become increasingly interconnected, effective competition policy remains central to promoting innovation, protecting consumers and supporting inclusive economic growth. In this regard and as you may recall, during 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* in 2025, the Government of Kenya proposed for the recognition of 5 December as world competition day; and UNCTAD encouraged Member States to pursue consultations on this issue leading up to this twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, Kenya welcomes the endorsement by Member States on the Recognition of the 5th December as the World Competition Day by the United Nations, during this session. Kenya believes that the recognition of the WCD by UN would work to enhance competition culture, create a platform for cooperation and above all it would be a significant advocacy tool which will provide the International Community with an opportunity to raise more awareness, strengthen international cooperation and promote the exchange of experiences and best practices among Member States. Kenya calls upon this meeting to adopt the resolution on the recognition of WCD by the United Nations on the understanding that there are no additional costs that will accrue to UN.

Chairlady, Kenya reaffirms its commitment to constructive engagement within this Intergovernmental Group of Experts. Through stronger international cooperation, enhanced institutional capacity and an inclusive multilateral approach, we can build competitive, resilient and inclusive markets that deliver lasting benefits for businesses and consumers alike.

I THANK YOU.