

**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on  
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Room XII, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
8-10 July 2026**

**Statement**

***Small Island Developing States (SIDS)***

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**Statement of the SIDS Group**  
**23rd Session of UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy**  
**8-10 July 2026 | Room XII, 3rd floor, Palais des Nations**

Thank you Madam Chair,  
Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

The Dominican Republic has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Small Island Developing States Group (SIDS).

The SIDS Group express its appreciation to the UNCTAD Secretariat for convening the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, for the comprehensive documentation prepared for this session, and for its continued leadership in supporting the development of effective competition regimes, particularly in developing countries.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), competition policy is an essential pillar of resilient and inclusive development. Our economies are characterized by small domestic markets, geographic isolation, high transport costs, concentrated market structures, and a significant dependence on imports. These structural features can limit competition, increase prices, and reduce consumer welfare, thereby constraining sustainable development prospects.

The SIDS Group therefore welcomes the focus of this session on assessing the benefits of competition law and policy for developing countries, reviewing capacity-building initiatives, and discussing competition in global food value chains. These issues are particularly relevant to SIDS, where concentrated supply chains and external shocks can disproportionately affect food security, affordability and economic resilience.

We reaffirm the commitment made by SIDS Ministers at UNCTAD 16, calling upon UNCTAD to continue supporting capacity-building and peer learning to enable SIDS to develop competitive, fair and well-functioning markets while strengthening institutional frameworks and enhancing economic and social progress. We further encourage continued technical assistance tailored to the specific circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS, including support for competition authorities, regional cooperation, digital markets governance and effective enforcement capacities.

Finally, the SIDS Group further reaffirms that effective competition law and policy are important enablers of sustainable development, supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing market efficiency and fostering inclusive and resilient economic development through competitive, transparent and fair markets. We remain committed to working with UNCTAD and all partners to strengthen competitive markets that foster innovation, resilience, investment and sustainable prosperity for all.

We look forward to the discussions ahead.

I thank you, Madam Chair.