

**9th United Nations Conference on Competition and Consumer Protection  
Room XIX, Palais des Nations  
Geneva  
7-11 July 2025**

**Statement**

**The Republic of The Gambia**

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**THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,  
WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE 9<sup>TH</sup>  
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON COMPETITION AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025  
AGENDA ITEM: GENERAL STATEMENTS**

**The President of the Conference**

**Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished delegates,**

At the onset, The Gambia congratulates the UNCTAD Secretary General and the Secretariat for the excellent organization of the 9th United Nations conference to review all aspects of the Set of multilaterally agreed equitable principles and rules for the control of restrictive business practices. We also commend the Secretariat for the making all the conference documents available online.

It is noteworthy that this conference comes on the heels of the commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Set of Principles and Rules on Competition, and the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection.

**Mr. President,**

The Gambia is confident that the discussions and the outcomes of this conference will build on the emerging best practices in both competition and consumer protection, and enhance interventions in the areas of quality, economic growth, innovation and consumer protection.

Strengthening competition and consumer protection is crucial for both businesses and consumers, as it leads to lower prices, better quality products and services and increased innovation. Similarly, consumer protection ensures fair and honest



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business practices preventing exploitation of consumers and promote trust in market.

**Mr. President,**

Kindly allow me to share some developments relating to the competition and consumer protection landscape in The Gambia.

The Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission is an independent public institution created to promote fair competition and safeguard consumer rights, prevent anti-competitive practices and foster a level playing field in the Gambian economy. Since its establishment the Commission has played a crucial role in ensuring the availability and accessibility of essential goods and services at fair prices.

It has conducted investigations into suspected anti-competitive acts in the areas of market sharing, preferential treatment, tie-agreements, refusal deals, exclusivity agreements, price fixing, price gouging, self-preferencing and hoarding, amongst other areas.

In its efforts to build confidence and trust in the market, the Commission in collaboration with sector regulators and stakeholders, has also conducted market studies in key sectors such as: Pharmaceutical, Airlines, Tourism sector, cement market, Digital market, LPG market, Public procurement, Essential Commodities market and Banking sector. These market studies have led to policy advisories and investigations into competition issues raised in the study.

With the brutal experience of the COVID-19 and other external shocks resulting from conflicts and climate crisis, the Commission has introduced market surveillance in the essential commodities market to proactively detect anti-competitive conduct during shocks and emergencies. The surveillance helps to



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determine if price hikes in essential products are as a result of anti-competitive practices.

**Mr. President,**

The Gambia expresses its sincere appreciation to the EU Delegation in The Gambia which is currently supporting the Commission to develop merger review regulations and guidelines.

We also thank the Commonwealth Secretariat for the technical assistance in the development of the Commission's 2025 – 2029 Strategic plan; as well as the review and consolidation of the Competition Act 2007 and the Consumer Protection Act 2014 into a single legislation. This initiative seeks to:

- Enhance the enforcement capacity of the Commission;
- Align the new legal framework with the AfCFTA and the ECOWAS Competition Protocol; and
- Mandate the Commission to initiate investigations into consumer protection issues of public interest.

In conclusion, we encourage our donors and partners to increase support for the activities of UNCTAD to enhance the capacities of Least Developed Countries, SIDs and developing countries in their efforts to adopt international standards in the areas of competition and consumer protection.