



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

14th Session, 8 to 11 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

Roundtable on UNCTAD's capacity-building on competition law and policy

Wednesday, 09 July 2014 (11:30 - 13:00)

Palais des Nations, Room XVIII (First Floor)

UNCTAD provides assistance to interested young competition agencies both at national and regional levels including assistance in drafting competition laws, setting up enforcement frameworks, strengthening their institutional capacity for better implementation of competition laws and undertaking competition advocacy to create a competition culture and promote consumer welfare. Since the UN Fifth Review Conference on the Set on competition in 2005, a new impetus was given to UNCTAD support to developing countries through the voluntary peer review of the competition policy of some of the countries. Recommendations of the peer reviews are translated into capacity-building projects to enhance the competition regime of the beneficiary country.

Alternative ways to implement the UNCTAD capacity building activities in the area of competition and consumer protection could be explored. Mentoring partnerships between experienced and young competition agencies could be one way to foster cooperation between them. These partnerships might include staff exchanges; detachment of staff of experienced agencies to young agencies for a certain period of time; study tours for staff of young agencies to experienced ones; and informal cooperation in terms of exchange of information and experiences in case handling in cases that affect both agencies.

Furthermore, monitoring the media for breaches of competition law or anti-competitive practices is an important part of any media communication strategy for a competition authority. Many authorities have dedicated personnel for this activity, or indeed a dedicated unit or branch, whilst many other authorities do not engage in this activity or do so informally. In order to increase the effectiveness and expertise of agencies under the latter category, it would be beneficial to establish links and cooperation agreements with agencies that do carry out these activities. The cooperative activities could take the form of staff secondments, mentoring schemes, assistance with formulating strategies and work plans, and direct involvement in enacting strategies.

Member states may wish to discuss the following areas of capacity-building, especially or young competition authorities:

- Joint voluntary peer review requests as a means to promote informal cooperation and exchange of information and to facilitate the design of joint capacity-building projects.
- Using the media as a source of information and detection of anticompetitive practices

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WORK PROGRAMME

11:30 to 11:45 **Presentation by W. Kovacic, George Washington University**

11:45 to 13:00 **Round table discussion :**

- Namibia (tbc)
- Seychelles (tbc)
- Philippines (tbc)

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Yves Kenfack (yves.kenfack@unctad.org)