



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

13th Session, 8 to 10 July 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Roundtable on “The Impact of Cartels on the Poor”¹

Monday, 8 July 2013 (12:00 - 13:00)
Palais des Nations, Room XVIII (First Floor)

Cartels are per se prohibitions under most competition laws. They have an adverse effect on all consumers but the poor suffer disproportionately from the effects of collusion in commerce and public procurement. High prices, particularly in essential goods and services, force the poor to consume less or none of these goods. Moreover, as small entrepreneurs, the poor might be denied access to markets or subject to exploitative conduct by cartels.

To facilitate this round table discussion, the background note reviews a number of cartel cases from various jurisdictions in sectors which are most likely to affect the poor. It identifies the common features of these cartels and the challenges involved in detecting and prosecuting them by young competition agencies. The note then examines whether and how cartel prosecution benefits the poor and provides an overview of the difficulties faced.

The note also identifies key lessons drawn from the experience gained so far in dealing with cartels. These include attribution of sufficient enforcement powers to competition authorities, prioritization of those cases of greater concern to the poor, advocacy measures, distributional equity issues in resolving cases affecting mostly the poor or small businesses, and the importance of international cooperation in anti-cartel enforcement.

¹ UNCTAD (2013), The Impact of Cartels on the Poor, Note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/C.I/CLP/24).

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WORK PROGRAMME

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| 10:00 to 10:10 | Introductory presentation by UNCTAD secretariat |
| 10:10 to 10:30 | Keynote speech
<i>Eleanor Fox, Professor, New York University</i> |
| 10:30 to 11:30 | Panel discussion

Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A representative from South Africa (tbc)• Payal Malik, Advisor, Competition Commission, India• Deborah Healey, The University of New South Wales, Australia (tbc) |
| 11:30 to 13:00 | Interactive debate (Part II)
The panel discussion will be followed by interactive debate, including interventions by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU (tbc)• Korea• USA (tbc)• Brazil (tbc)• Turkey (tbc)• Mexico (tbc) |

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Hassan Qaqaya (hassan.qaqaya@unctad.org).