



**Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy  
Eighteenth Session,  
Geneva, 10 to 12 July 2019**

**Discussion on "Competition in healthcare markets: access and affordability"<sup>1</sup>**

**Friday, 12 July 2019  
Room XVII**

Cost and access to healthcare remains a pervasive subject across the globe. The health of citizens is inextricably linked to a nation's productivity and economic development. This is recognised in the third United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3 also UN SDGs).

The global market share stability of certain pharmaceutical firms raises concerns about the extent and nature of competition within pharmaceutical markets. This is an important consideration in markets where governments remain large customers and shoulder the cost of healthcare.

The use or misuse of intellectual property also plays a crucial role in determining the affordability of medicines which remain under intellectual property protection. Arrangements between pharmaceutical firms which prevent market entry of cheaper alternatives or those which enable firms to charge excessive or unfair prices raise competition concerns.

Given these concerns, a number of competition authorities across the world are undertaking competition investigations in order to ensure that these markets remain competitive and engender access to affordable healthcare for all.

This session will consider and discuss the drivers of access to affordable healthcare and the role of competition regulation in ensuring that healthcare markets work to attain this goal. In doing so, the session will also consider the latest competition law cases underway which seek to address access and affordability across healthcare markets.

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by the Competition Commission of South Africa.

## Work Programme

**10:00 - 10:15** - Presentation by the Competition Commission of South Africa

**10:15 - 11:15** - Panel discussion

### **Panellists:**

- Professor Eleanor Fox, Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation at New York University School of Law, USA
- Mr. Alexey Ivanov, Director, HSE-Skolkovo Institute for Law and Development, Russia
- Mr. Francis Kariuki, Director-General, Competition Authority of Kenya
- Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS

**11:15 - 12:00** - Interactive Debate

Delegates wishing to take part in this roundtable are kindly invited to inform the Secretariat accordingly by contacting Mr. Sung-Keun Kim ([sung-keun.kim@unctad.org](mailto:sung-keun.kim@unctad.org)) or Jacqueline Bouvier ([Jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org](mailto:Jacqueline.bouvier@unctad.org), Tel. +41229171878).